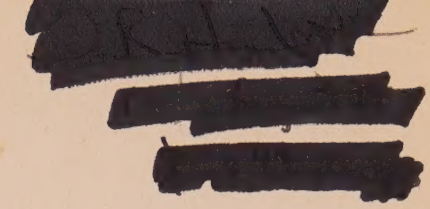
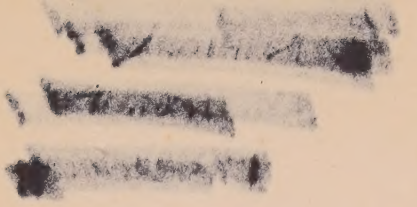
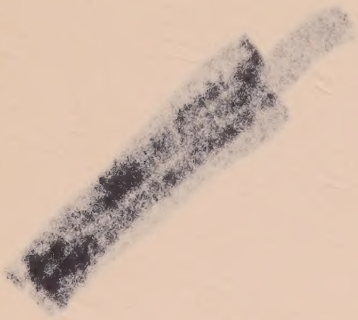
The Oxford University Press

1468–1926



P. B. Morris

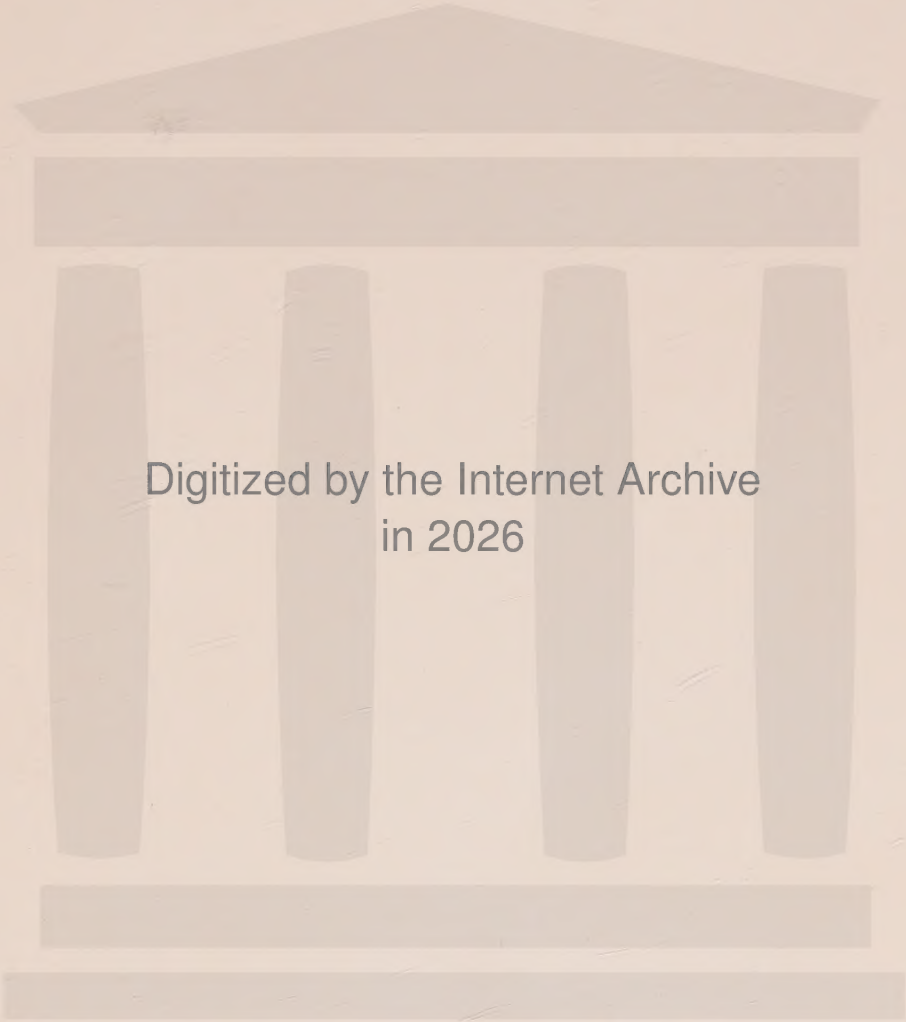




The Oxford University Press

First published 1922
Reprinted 1922
Second Edition 1926

Printed with the types of Bishop FELL


Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026

https://archive.org/details/someaccountofoxf0000vari

THE CLARENDON PRESS, WALTON STREET, OXFORD

The Bible Press is nearest to the spectator: the Learned Press at the far end

SOME ACCOUNT

OF THE

OXFORD University Press

1468–1926

OXFORD

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

MCMXXVI

SOCIETY OF TRH

Oxford University Press
London Edinburgh Glasgow Copenhagen
New York Toronto Melbourne Cape Town
Bombay Calcutta Madras Shanghai
Humphrey Milford Publisher to the UNIVERSITY

Printed in England at the OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
By John Johnson Printer to the University

THE AUTHOR *desires to expreß his grateful thanks to all those members of the Staffs of the Preß and its Branches who have helped him in the compilation of this sketch, or have contributed to its typographical or pictorial embellishment; and especially to* Mr. FALCONER MADAN, *from whose* Brief Account of the University Press at Oxford (1908) *the historical details here mentioned are derived.*

OXFORD, *December* 1921.

The kind reception accorded to this brief Account led to its being reprinted. The continued demand for copies, and the rapidity with which much of the information given has been made obsolete by the march of events, have encouraged the compiler to proceed to a second edition.

October 1926.

CONTENTS

I. HISTORICAL SKETCH . . *Page* 9

II. THE PRESS TO-DAY

The Press at Oxford 23
The Press in the War 35
Wolvercote Paper Mill 38
The Press in London 40
Administration 46
Finance 49
Oxford Imprints 53
Catalogues and Advertisement 57
The Press and its Authors 63
Bibles and Prayer Books 65
Clarendon Press Books 71

III. THE PRESS ABROAD

India 73
Canada 77
Australasia 78
South Africa 79
China 79
Scandinavia 79
The United States 80

IV. OXFORD BOOKS

Oxford Series . . . . . *Page* 83
Oxford Books on the Empire 92
The Oxford Standard 94
Illustrated Books 97
Fine Printing 104
English Classics 106
Official Publications 108
The Oxford English Dictionary . . . 111
The Dictionary of National Biography . . 119
The Oxford Medical Publications . . . 123
Oxford Books for Boys and Girls . . . 127
Music 128

List of Illustrations 132

I

HISTORICAL SKETCH

THE first book printed at Oxford is the very rare Commentary on the Apostles' Creed attributed to St. Jerome, the colophon of which is dated 17 December, Anno domini Mcccclxviij. It is improbable that a book was printed at Oxford so early as 1468; and the bibliographers are on various grounds agreed that an x has been omitted. If so, Oxford must be content to date the beginning of its Press from the year 1478; while Westminster, its only English precursor, produced its first book from Caxton's press in 1477.

The first printer was Theodoric Rood, who came to England from Cologne, and looked after the Press until about 1485; soon after which date the first Press came to an end. The second Press lasted from 1517 until 1520, and was near Merton College. Some twenty-three books

are known to have issued from these Presses; they are for the most part classical or theological works in Latin. There is no doubt that this early Press was really the University Press; for many of the books have the imprint *in Alma Universitate Oxoniae* or the like, some bear the University Arms, and some are issued with the express privilege of the Chancellor of the University.

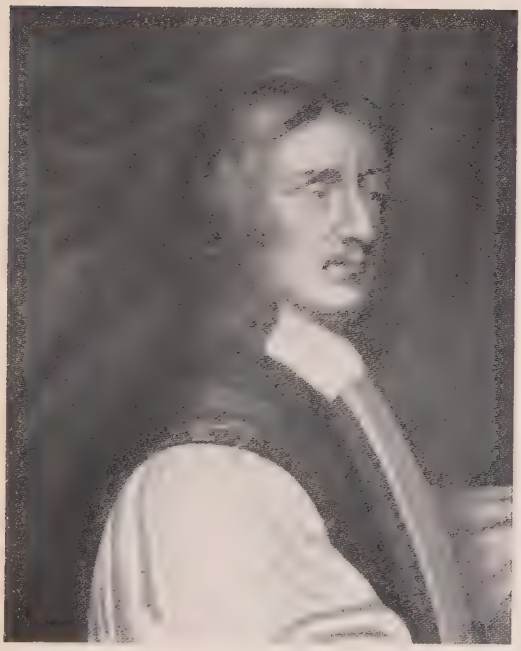
Device used on the back of the title of Sphæra Civitatis *Oxford* 1588

After 1520 there is a gap in the history, which begins again in 1585. The Chancellor of that time was Queen Elizabeth's favourite, the Earl of Leicester, who in the first issue of the new Press is celebrated as its founder. Convocation in 1584 had appointed a committee *De Libris imprimendis*, and in 1586 the University lent £100 to an Oxford bookseller, Joseph Barnes, to carry on a press. In the next year an ordinance of the Star Chamber allowed one press at Oxford, and one apprentice in addition to the master printer. Barnes managed the Press until 1617, and printed many books now prized by collectors, among them the first book printed at Oxford in Greek (the Chrysostom of 1586), the first book with Hebrew type (1596), Richard de Bury's *Philobiblon*, and Captain John Smith's *Map of Virginia*.

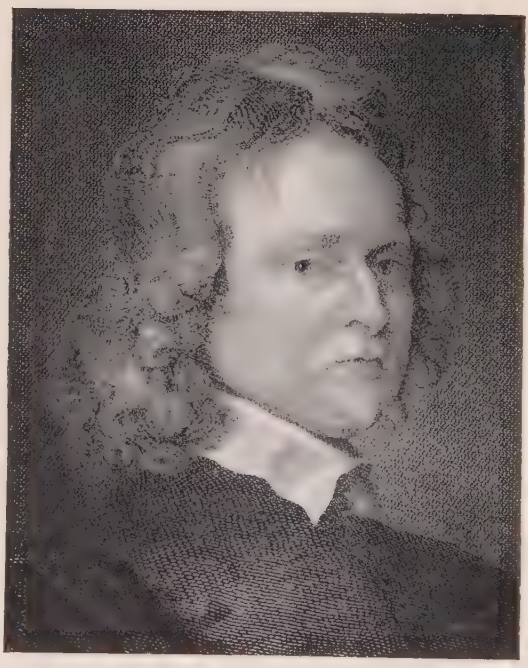
The first notable promoter of the Oxford Press was Archbishop Laud, whose statutes contemplate the appoint-

Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester

Archbishop Laud

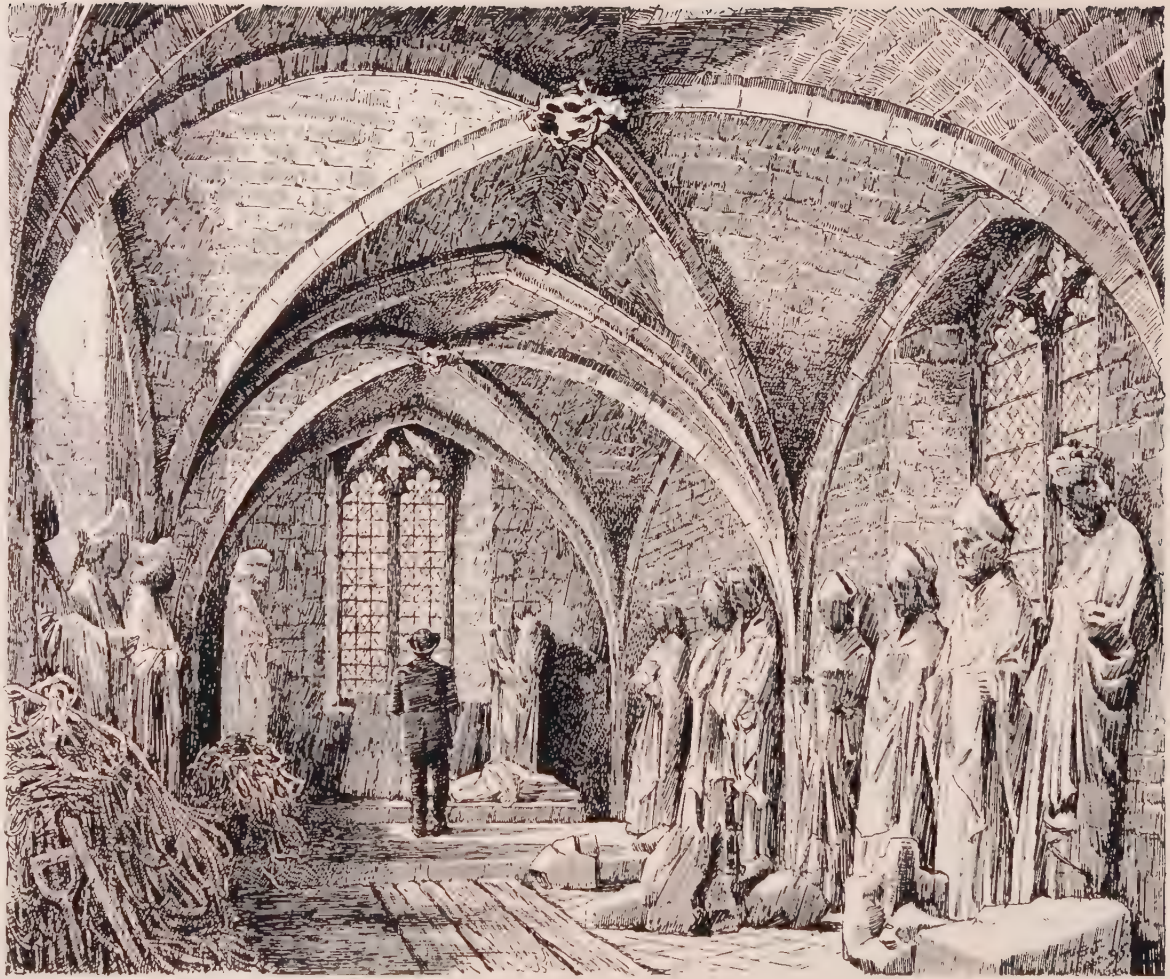


Dr. John Fell



Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon

FOUR FOUNDERS OF THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS



THE INTERIOR OF THE OLD CONGREGATION HOUSE

The first printing-house owned by the University; used for storing Oriental type and printing-furniture, 1652

ment of an *Architypographus*, and who secured for the University in 1632 Letters Patent authorizing three printers (each with two presses and two apprentices), and

(1) *Numb.* 1.

The Oxford Gazette.

Published by Authority.

Oxon. Nov. 7.

THis day the Reverend Dr. *Walter Blandford*, Warden of *Wadham Colledge* in this Universſity, was elected Ld. Biſhop of this See, vacant by the death of Dr. *Paul*, late Biſhop here.

Oxon. Nov. 12. This Day His Majeſty in Councel according to the uſual cuſtom, having the Roll of Sheriffs preſented to him, pricked thoſe Perſons following to be Sheriffs for the ſucceeding Year, in their reſpective Counties of *England* and *Wales*.

Berks.	Baſil Brent, *Eſquire.*
Bedford.	Tho: Snagge. *Eſq.*
Buckingham.	Symon Benner, *Eſq.*
Cumberland.	Sir William Dalſton, *Baronet.*
Cheſter.	Sir John Arderne, *Knight.*
Cambridge.	Sir Tho: Willis, *Kt. and Baronet.*
Cornwal.	Tho: Dorrel, *Eſq.*
Devon.	John Kelland, *Eſq.*
Dorſet.	Roger Clavel, *Eſq.*
Derby.	Sir Samuel Sleigh, *Knight.*
Yorkſhire.	Sir Francis Cobb, *Knight.*
Eſſex.	Sir Heneage Fetherſton, *Baronet.*
Gloceſter.	Sir Richard Cox, *Baronet.*
Hertford.	Sir Jonathan Kear, *Baronet.*
Hereford.	Tho: Rod, *Eſq.*
Kent.	Sir Humphry Miller, *Baronet.*
Lancaſter	William Spencer, *Eſq.*

ſieur *de Canillac* having been put to death by the Commiſſioners of the *Grands Iours*: It ſeems they had laid ſome new Taxes or Impoſitions on thoſe parts: There are Troups marching againſt them, and it is thought they will ſoon be reduced. My Lord *Aubigny* Lord *Almoner* to her Majeſty, having layen ſick ſome time here of an Hydropſie attended with a Flux, is this week dead.

Paris Novemb: 18. The *Mareſchal de Turenne* arrived here on Sunday laſt from the Frontiers, whence he brings account that the Succors intended againſt the Prince of *Munſter* had paſſed in ſmall parties, and that they had been received at *Maeſtricht* by *Monſieur Bevering* in the name of the States General.

Guernzy, Octob. 30. Yeſterday came into our Road the *Vnity* Frigot, Captain *Trafford* Commander, who brought in a Prize Captain *Iohn Gilſon* of *Fluſhing*, being a Privateer of 7 Guns, and 45. Men.

Chattham Nov: 4. Captain *Elliot* Commander of the *Saphire* has taken 3 Buſſes, two of them out of 50 at the *Dogger-ſands*, under the Protection of four of their Men of War. In his paſſage home, tis ſaid, he ſaw ſeveral tops of Ships, Maſts, &c. which ſeemed to be the effects of ſome Wreck, which God be thanked we doe not heare to have been any of the *Engliſh* Ships.

Oxon: *Novemb*: 12. Not knowing what accompt the Publick has hitherto received of the Progreſs of the Prince of *Munſter's* Armes, we have thought it not improper without further repetition, to give an account of ſuch places as be at preſent ſtands poſſeſt of in the Ene-

Upper part of the first page of the Oxford (now London) Gazette, 1665. The oldest newspaper still existing in England

in 1636 a Royal Charter entitling the University to print 'all manner of books'. The privilege of printing the Bible was not exercised at this date; but in 1636 Almanacks were produced, and this seems to have alarmed the Stationers' Company, who then enjoyed a virtual monopoly of Bibles,

Used in Burley on Aristotle, printed at Oxford 1517

Used in 1585-93, 1597-1600, & at intervals till 1635

Used in 1627-8, 1630-33, 1635-7, and 1640

Used at intervals from 1592-1638

Used in 1628, and at intervals till 1637

Used in 1630-4, 1636-8, & 1640

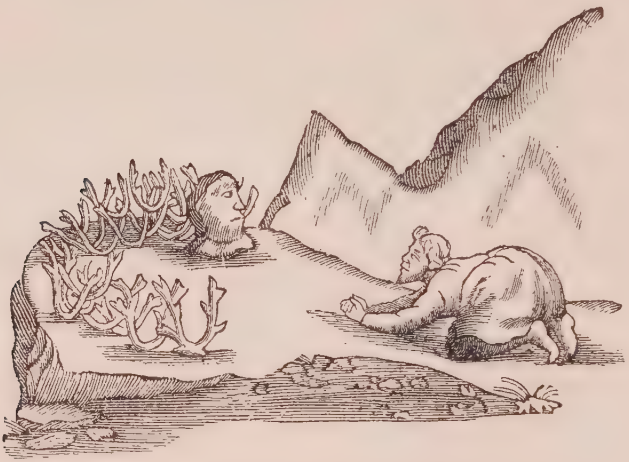
From the University Specimen, 1786

OXFORD UNIVERSITY ARMS

Some ancient examples used by the Oxford University Press

These Arms were first used in 1640

Grammars, and Almanacks; for we find that in 1637 the University surrendered the privilege to the Stationers for an annual payment of £200, twice the amount of Joseph Barnes's working capital. The most famous books belonging to what may be called the Laudian period were five editions of Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy* and one of Bacon's *Advancement of Learning* in English.

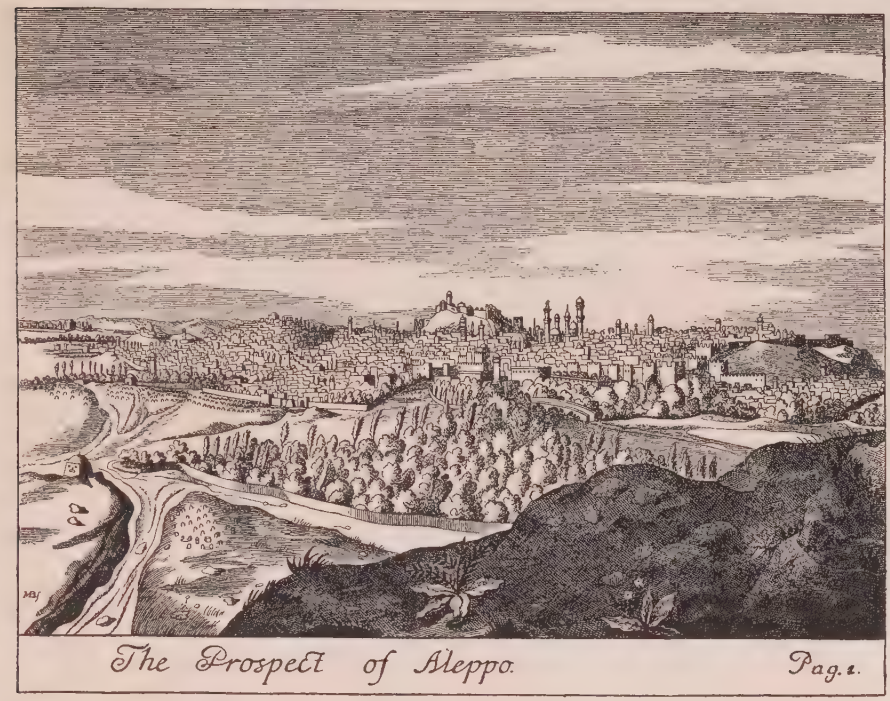


From The History of Lapland *by John Shefferus, 1674, the first anthropological book published by the Press*

The work of the Press during the Civil War is of interest to historians and bibliographers on account of the great number of Royalist Pamphlets and Proclamations issued while the Court of Charles I was at Oxford; a number swollen in appearance by those printed in London with counterfeit Oxford imprints. But this period is not important in the history of the Learned Press; and after 1649 it suffered a partial eclipse which did not pass until the Restoration.

The history of the Press in the latter part of the seven-

teenth century will always be connected with the name of the second of its great patrons, Dr. John Fell, Dean of Christ Church and Bishop of Oxford. Fell made the great collection of type-punches and matrices from which the



From W. Mauudrell's Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem, *Oxford,* 1703, *engraved by M. Burghers*

beautiful types known by his name are still cast at Oxford; he promoted the setting up of a paper mill at Wolvercote, where Oxford paper is still made; he conducted the long, and ultimately successful, struggle with the Stationers and the King's Printers, from which the history of Oxford Bibles and Prayer Books begins (1675). In 1671 he and

three others took over the management of the Press, paying the University £200 a year and spending themselves a large sum upon its development. Lastly, it seems that he suggested to Archbishop Sheldon the provision, due to his munificence, of the new and spacious printing house and *Theatre* which still bears his name. The Press was installed there in 1669, and began to issue a long series of books which bear the imprint *Oxoniae e Theatro Sheldoniano,* or in the vulgar tongue *Oxford at the Theater.* These imprints, indeed, were still used, at times, long after the Press had been moved from the Sheldonian to its next home in the Clarendon Building. Many learned folios were printed at this time, including pioneer work by Oxford students of Oriental languages; the book best remembered to-day is no doubt Anthony Wood's *Historia et Antiquitates Universitatis Oxoniensis* published in 1674.

The tercentenary of Fell's birth in 1625 has been celebrated by the issue of a folio volume of facsimiles, being specimens of books printed in his types both in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and since the modern revival. The facsimiles are printed with fresh type on a pure rag paper made at Wolvercote, and thus have all, and more than all, the brilliance of the originals.

To this period belongs also the first exercise of the privilege to print Bibles and Prayer Books, which was recognized, as we have seen, at least as early as 1637, when the Stationers' Company paid the University to refrain from printing Bibles. This agreement lasted until 1642, and, by renewal at intervals, until 1672, when it was at length denounced; and in 1675 a quarto English Bible was printed *at the Theater,* and a beginning made of what has become an extensive and highly technical process of manufacture and distribution.

Ad.ennin inven:

OXONIÆ. e Theatro Sheldoniano. M.DC LXXIV.

R:White sculpsit

Early in the eighteenth century the Press acquired, with a new habitation, a name still in very general use. The University was granted the perpetual copyright of Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion* (a possession in which it was confirmed by the Copyright Act of 1911); and the *Clarendon Building* was built chiefly from the profits accruing from the sales of that book. Many editions were printed in folio at various dates; and the Press Catalogue still offers the fine edition of 1849, with the notes of Bishop Warburton, in seven volumes octavo, and that of the *Life* in two volumes, 1857; the whole comprising over 5,000 pages and sold for £4 10*s*. Still cheaper is the one-volume edition of 1843, in 1,366 pages royal octavo, the price of which is 21*s*. More recently the demands of piety have been still further satisfied by the issue of a new edition based on fresh collations made from the manuscript by the late Dr. Macray. Though the Clarendon Building long since ceased to be a printing house, one of its rooms is still *The Delegates' Room*; and there the Delegates of the Press hold their stated meetings.

In the eighteenth century the Bible Press grew in strength with the co-operation of London booksellers and finally with the establishment (at some time before 1770) of its own Bible Warehouse in Paternoster Row. The Learned Press, on the other hand, though some important books were produced, suffered from the general apathy which then pervaded the University. Sir William Blackstone, having been appointed a Delegate, found that his colleagues did not meet, or met only to do nothing; and addressed to the Vice-Chancellor a vigorous pamphlet, in which he described the Press as 'languishing in a lazy obscurity, and barely reminding us of its existence, by now and then slowly bringing forth a Program, a Sermon

The Three University Presses

printed by request, or at best a Bodleian Catalogue'. The great lawyer's polemic gradually battered down the ramparts of ignorant negligence, and the Press began to revive under the new statute which he promoted. Dr. Johnson in 1767 was able to assure his sovereign that the authorities at Oxford 'had put their press under better regulation, and were at that time printing *Polybius*'.

The Clarendon Building is not large, and the Press very soon outgrowing it was partly housed in various adjacent buildings, until in 1826–30 the present Press in Walton Street was erected. It is remarkable that though the building is more like a college than a factory—it is of the quadrangular plan regular in Oxford—and was built when printing was still mainly a handicraft, it has been found possible to adapt its solid fabric and spacious rooms to modern processes with very little structural alteration. Extensive additions, however, have been and are even now being made.

The activities of the nineteenth century are too various to detail; but a few outstanding facts claim mention. The Bible business continued to prosper, and gained immensely in variety by the introduction of Oxford India paper and by the publication, in conjunction with Cambridge, of the Revised Version of the Old and New Testaments. Earlier in the century there was a period of great activity in the production of editions of the Classics, in which Gaisford played a great part and to which many foreign scholars like Wyttenbach and Dindorf gave their support. Later, in the Secretaryships of Kitchin (for many years afterwards Dean of Durham) and of Bartholomew Price, new ground was broken with the famous *Clarendon Press Series* of school books by such scholars as Aldis Wright, whose editions of Shakespeare have long served as a quarry for successive

THE QUADRANGLE OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESS AT OXFORD

Fire-place in the Delegates' Room
Clarendon Building

Grinling Gibbons Fire-place in one
of the London Offices

editors. The *New English Dictionary* began to be published in 1884. Meanwhile the manufacturing powers of the Press at Oxford and the selling powers of the publishing house in London were very widely extended by the energies of Mr. Horace Hart and Mr. Henry Frowde, and the foundations were laid of the great and multifarious enterprises which belong to the history of the last twenty years.

The growth of the Press in the first two decades of the present century is due to the co-operation of a large number of individuals: of the members of the University who have acted as Delegates; of their officers, managers, and employees; and of the authors of Oxford books. In so far, however, as this period of its history can be identified with the name of one man, it will be remembered as that in which the late CHARLES CANNAN served the Delegates as Secretary. The Delegates at his death placed on record their judgement that he had made an inestimable contribution to the prosperity and usefulness of the Press. The *Times Literary Supplement*, in reviewing the last edition of the *Oxford University Roll of Service*, gave some account of the services performed by the University in the war. One paragraph dealt with the work of the Press:—

'Probably no European Press did more to propagate historical and ethical truth about the war. The death of its Secretary, Charles Cannan, a year ago, has left an inconsolable regret among all those more fortunate Oxford men, old and young, who had the honour to be acquainted with one of the finest characters and most piercing intelligences of our time. He was a very great man, and is alive to-day in the spirit of the institution which he enriched with his personality and his life.'

II

THE PRESS TO-DAY

§ 1. *The Press at Oxford*

HE main building of the Oxford Press, erected 1826–30, consists of three sides of a quadrangle. The two main wings, each of three floors, are still known as the *Learned Side* and the *Bible Side*, though their appropriation to Bibles and secular books has long since ceased in fact. On the Learned Side are the hand composing rooms, both the book department and the jobbing department, where some readers and compositors are employed in setting up the official papers of the University, examination papers, and other miscellaneous work, and the more difficult and complicated books produced for the Delegates or other publishers.

The total quantity of type in the Press is estimated at

Fell 3-line Pica

John Fell. 1689
Christ Church

Fell Double Pica

EARLIEST PRINTERS. The ecclesiastical and academical world probably viewed printers at first with some

Fell Great Primer

THE FIRST OXFORD BOOK. The first book printed at Oxford bears the unmistakable date MCCCCLXVIII (1468). Even

Fell Pica

THE SECOND OXFORD PRESS, 1517–20. The second press is peculiar for its short and almost unrecorded work, and for the entire absence of Theology among its products, whereas in the first press Theology and Classics were about

Fell Small Pica

THE OXFORD PRESS, 1585–1669. The great feature of this interesting period is the London counterfeits of Oxford imprints, the royalist publishers in London

Fell Brevier

OXFORD TYPES OF 1693. It was for this reason that when an edition of the Lord's Prayer in more than a hundred languages was published at London, in 1700 and 1713, pp. 9–24 (two sheets), containing Hebrew, Samaritan, Syriac,

Walpergen

MUSIC

Old face (based on Walpergen)

ROMAN AND ITALIC

English

OLD STYLE

The printing at Oxford actually began at two on that *morning, from movable type which had not been used for*

Pica

some years. Exactly one hundred copies (each containing 1,052 *pages*) *were printed, and numbered consecutively; the*

Small pica

sheets were artificially dried and sent up to London by the nine o'clock *morning express. They were at once bound at the Oxford University Press*

Pica

NEW STYLE

Bindery in London, in turkey morocco, with gold lettering *and the arms of the University on the side, and a parcel containing*

Small pica

ten copies were taken to the Exhibition by two o'clock in the afternoon. *Mr. Gladstone considered that this feat might be called 'the climax and*

Long primer

consummation of printing'. The credit for the scheme may be divided *between Mr. Henry Stevens of Vermont, who suggested it, Mr. Henry Frowde,*

Bourgeois

on whom the burden of the special arrangements fell, and Professor Bartholomew *Price, who decided that the idea could be carried out. It is seldom that even a*

Brevier

The printing at Oxford actually began at two on that morning, from movable type *which had not been used for some years. Exactly one hundred copies (each containing 1,052 pages)*

ARABIC

3-line bourgeois

اعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم

Long primer

شاورن لابارى ڤيوونى نن

لهم كتابا بعهد وامان فاتاهم به يزيد

ARMENIAN

Small pica

Ինչու որ Աստուած անանկ
սիրեց աշխարհը մինչև որ իր
միածին Որդին տուաւ. որ ամէն
ով որ անոր Հաւատայ՝ չկորսուի,
Հապա յաւիտենական կեանք

BENGALI

Pica

যুবা পুরুষদিগের সংসারে প্রবেশ
করিবার পূর্ব্বে বিবেচন করা কর্ত্তব্য
যে তাহাদিগের নি জজীবনের
উদ্দেশ্য কি। আমরা কি হইবার
আকাঙ্ক্ষা করি এবং তন্নিমিত্ত

BURMESE

Great primer

အခြင်းမူကားသင်းတော်
ကိုယ်ကြည်သော သူတိုင်း

Pica

မပျက် မစီးဘဲ ထာဝရအသက်ကို

CHINESE

English

滅 信 他 獨 甚 上
亡, 他 們, 生 至 帝
反 的, 叫 子 將 愛
得 不 一 賜 他 世
永 至 切 給 的 人,

COPTIC

Pica

Παιρнϯ тнρϩϯ ⲙⲙⲉпре
пікосⲙⲙос ϩωсте печ-

Pica

ⲱнрı ⲁⲙⲙⲁⲣⲁⲧⲩⲓⲧⲉϥⲧнıϥ

Long primer

ϩıпа ονοпшϣеп ⲉⲟпⲁϱϯ ⲉροϥ

ETHIOPIC

English

እስመ : ከመዝ : አፍቀሮ : እግ
ዚአብሔር : ለዓለም : እስከ :

Long primer

ወልደ፡ ዋሕደ፡ ወሀበ፡ ቤዛ፡ ከመ፡ኩሉ፡
ዘየአምን፡ ቦቱ፡ አይትሐጕል፡ አላ

GREEK

English

φάσκων ὑπὸ τοῦ πατρός,

Eng. Porsonic

αὐτοῖς τὴν ἑκάστου γνῶσιν

Pica Scapula

αὐτοῖς τὴν ἑκάστου γνῶσιν

Pica

μεταπεμφθῆναι φάσκων ὑπὸ

HEBREW

English (pointed)

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת

Long primer (pointed)

וְשָׂרָם וַהֲמוֹנָם אֲבִי יָשָׂר מְאֹשָׁר בַּנְּבוֹנִים

Long primer (unpointed)

על עצמו להניע ליורשו ושאל מלפנינו

HIEROGLYPHS

3-line nonpareil

RUSSIAN

Small pica

Здоро́вья на нихъ не ку́пишь

Bourgeois

а́мый большо́й а́мый кве́рныйа́мый

SLAVONIC

Great primer

НБГЄ. ДА СТИТСѢ ИМѢ

SANSKRIT

Paragon

अस्ति गौतमस्य मुनेस् तपोवने महातपा नाम

Pica

श्रुतेन किं यो न धर्मम् आचरेत
किम् आत्मना यो न जितेन्द्रियो

SINHALESE

Pica

මක්නිසාද දෙවියන්වහන්
සේ තමන් ඒකජාත පුත්‍රයා
ණන් අදහාගන්නා සියල්
ලන් විනාශයට නොපැමිණ
සදාකාල ජීවනය ලබන

SYRIAC

Pica (Estranghelo)

ܟܬܒ ܐܢܐ ܟܠܗ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܠܗ

Long primer (Maronite)

ܡܫܝܚܐ ܠܗ ܐܢܐ ܟܬܒ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܠܗ

Long primer (Nestorian)

ܡܫܝܚܐ ܠܗ ܐܢܐ ܟܬܒ ܡܫܝܚܐ ܠܗ

TAMIL

English

தேவன், தம்முடையஒரே
பேரானகுமாரனைவிசுவா

Small pica

சிக் ஹிறவன் எவனே அவன் கெட்

Brevier

பெ் போகாமல் சீத்தியஜீவனை அடையும்படிக்கு

TIBETAN

Double pica

དགོན་མཆོག་གིས་ཅིད་ཀྱི་སྐས་

2-line brevier

གཅིག་པོ་གཉང་བ་ཅམ་དུ་འཛིག་རྟེན་ལ་
བྱམས་པར་མཛད་པས། སྐྱེས་དེ་ལ་དད་པ་

over one million pounds of metal, and includes some 550 different founts of type in some 150 different characters, ranging from the hieroglyphic and the prehistoric 'Minoan' (cast to record Sir Arthur Evans's discoveries) to the phonetic scripts of Sweet and Passy; and including Sanskrit, Greek, Roman, Hebrew, Arabic, Syriac, Ethiopic, Amharic, Coptic, Armenian, Chinese, Tibetan, Burmese, Sinhalese, Tamil, Gothic, Cyrillic. Here, too, are the famous Fell types and ornaments acquired by the University about 1667. These are virtually the same as the founts from which were printed the first edition of *The Faerie Queene* and the First Folio Shakespeare; and their beauty makes them still the envy of printers all the world over. Here compositors are still daily engaged in setting the Oxford Dictionary (with its twenty-one different sizes or characters of type), which has been slowly growing since 1882. One compositor has a record of forty years' continuous work on the Dictionary.

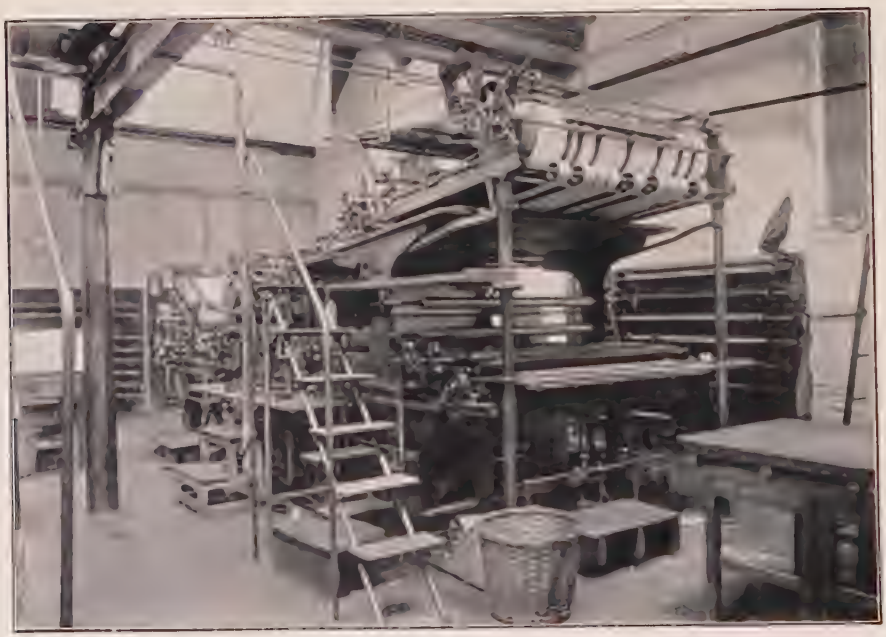
In part of the same wing is the old *Delegates' Warehouse*. Here, and in a number of annexes, including the old *Delegates' School* built about 1840, reposed, until recently, the most venerable of the Delegates' publications. They were stored for the most part in lofty stacks of unfolded sheets, like the piers of a Norman crypt. From these vaults was drawn into the upper air, in 1907, the last copy of Wilkins's *Coptic New Testament*, published in 1716, the paper hardly discoloured and the impression still black and brilliant. But the warehousing of their enormous stocks, ancient and modern, has offered to the Delegates problems of growing acuteness, the heroic solution of which is described below.

Of the *Bible Side* the ground floor is now the press room or *Machine Room*, which, with its more recent extensions,

Ancient Oak Frames in one of the Composing Rooms

The Upper Composing Room

The Old Machine Room.



A Perfecting Machine with Self-feeder

holds about fifty machines, from the last survivor of the old flat-impression double Platens to the most modern American double-cylinder 'perfecting' presses with their automatic 'feeders'. All kinds of printing are done here, from the small numbers of an oriental book or a Prayer Book in black and red to the largest impression of a Bible printed in sheets containing 320 pages each. The long experience of printing Bibles on thin paper and especially on Oxford India paper has given the Oxford machine-minder an unrivalled dexterity in the nice adjustment required to produce a fine clean effect on paper which will not stand a heavy impression.

As the sheets come from machine they are sent to the *Bindery*. This was at first on the floor above the machine room, but was some years ago transferred to a larger and more convenient building erected in the old garden behind the Press. The Oxford Bindery deals with most of the Clarendon Press books in cloth bindings, and prides itself upon the fine finish of the cases and gilding of such beautiful books as the *Oxford Book of English Verse*, as well as on being able to turn out artistic and attractive cloth bindings for books sold at the lowest prices. It still deals with a part only of the books printed under the same roof; but a large expansion is looked for in the future.

Between the two wings, and across the quadrangle, are two houses once occupied by the late Horace Hart and by Dr. Henry Bradley, who at his death in 1923 was the senior of the three editors of the Oxford Dictionary. The houses became some years ago unfit for habitation from the encroachment of machinery; but they have been usefully appropriated to the expansion of the clerical and artistic staffs of the publishing department.

Adjacent to the houses are the fire-proof *Plate Room*,

where some 750 tons of metal are stored, and the *Stereotype and Electrotype Foundry*.

In the same region were the monotype machines. But the accommodation of this department became insufficient for its growing importance, and its transfer to more spacious premises is now complete. The change was made possible by the new provision recently made for warehousing. When the old stock had been removed to Jordan Hill, the 'shanties' in which much of it had lain were demolished (one of these being re-erected at Jordan Hill as a temporary sports pavilion), and the space between the Learned Side and Great Clarendon Street covered with a single roof. This gives a very large room in which the monotype department will operate under ideal conditions.

Other departments in and about the old building are the *Photographic Room*, famous for its collotype printing, the *Type Foundry*, where Fell type is still cast from the old matrixes, and the *Ink Factory*.

The front of the building on Walton Street consists chiefly of packing rooms, where books are dispatched by rail or road to the City of London and elsewhere, and of offices—those of the Printer to the University on the ground floor and those of the Secretary to the Delegates above. Here are reference libraries of books printed or published by the Press, and records ranging from the oldest Delegates' minute-book of the seventeenth century to modern type-written correspondence arranged on the 'vertical' system of filing.

When the Delegates of the Press, nearly a hundred years ago, moved from Broad Street into what was then the country, they planned the new factory on a scale which has moved their successors to admiration. Not

JORDAN HILL: BOWLING GREEN AND TENNIS COURTS

JORDAN HILL: INTERIOR OF WAREHOUSE

only did they build solidly and spaciously; they also acquired land which has proved adequate to an expansion of which they can hardly have dreamed. The Delegates of the twentieth century, when they found themselves driven to the conclusion that the space available in Walton Street would all be wanted for manufacture, and that provision for storage must be sought elsewhere, felt themselves bound to emulate their predecessors and to take a long view.

They have acquired at Jordan Hill a freehold estate which is, they believe, equal to any development foreseen or not foreseen. It lies on the west side of the Banbury Road, nearly three miles from Carfax, and is bounded on the south by the Wolvercote Cemetery, on the west by the North Oxford Golf Course. The amenities of this very attractive site will not be impaired; for no factory building will be erected on the Banbury Road frontage.

Near the south-east corner of the field a modest-looking warehouse has been built for the storage of unbound books. The area is some 32,000 square feet, and this building is such as to admit of indefinite expansion. Expansion will be necessary; for the total stock of Clarendon Press books alone, bound and unbound, is not very far short of five million volumes.

In the south-west corner the Delegates have placed some ten acres at the disposal of the Press Amalgamated Clubs, and—with the generous assistance of an anonymous Press author, who contributed £1,000—have laid out a sports ground. Lawn-tennis courts and bowling green were in full use in the summer of 1925, and cricket and football grounds are maturing.

We may now return—as it is hoped even the most hoary of the old quires will one day return, for binding,—to

Walton Street. As the visitor enters the main gate the first object which catches his eye is a plain stone monument on the lawn. There are inscribed the names of the forty-four men of the Oxford Press who gave their lives in the War. Beyond the memorial is the quadrangle, made beautiful by grass and old trees; and from upper windows it is still possible to look over the flats of the Thames Valley and see the sun set behind Wytham Woods.

Corporate feeling has always been strong among the workers at the Press, and though the Delegates and their officers have done what they could to promote it, it is essentially a natural growth. Many of the work-people come of families which have been connected with the Press for generations; and they are proud not only of the old traditions of fine and honest work, but also of the usefulness and scholarly excellence of the books on which their labour is spent. The Press is, in all its parts, conscious at once of its unity and of its relation to the University of which it is an integral part.

This spirit is well shown by the history of the Press Volunteer Fire Brigade, constituted in 1885. The Brigade now numbers thirty-two officers and men, who by regular drills and competitions have made themselves efficient firemen, and able to assist the Oxford City Brigade in case of need. The Press possesses also a branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and first aid can be given at once if any accident happens.

Various Provident and Benevolent Societies exist at the Press, and the principle of co-operation by the employer was recognized for many years before the passing of the National Health Insurance Act. The Hospitals Fund makes substantial yearly contributions to the Radcliffe Infirmary and the Oxford Eye Hospital, and in view of the pressing

The New Bindery

The Crypt

THE NAGEL BUILDING (before occupation)

THE OXFORD BINDERY

needs of these institutions the subscription to the Fund has recently been doubled.

The common life naturally finds expression in the organization of recreation of all kinds. There is a Dramatic Society, the records of which go back to 1860; an Instrumental Society, dating from 1852; a Vocal Society, a Minstrel Society, a Piscatorial Society; Athletic, Cricket, Football, Bowls, Rowing, and Tennis Clubs, now amalgamated; and, not the least useful nor the least entertaining, the Gardening Association, formed during the war to meet the demand for more potatoes. Such of the men of the Press as were obliged to content themselves with the defence of the home front, responded with enthusiasm in their own gardens and allotments; and the Food Production Exhibition which crowned their efforts in the summer of 1918 became an annual event. In peace, as in war, there is need for all the food we can produce; and the Gardening Association has very wisely not relaxed its efforts.

The Clarendon Press Institute in Walton Street, close to the Press itself, provides accommodation for lectures, debates, and dramatic and other entertainments, as well as a library, a reading-room, and rooms for indoor games. The building was given by the Delegates, who contribute to its maintenance, but its management is completely democratic. The members appoint their own executive and are responsible for their own finances.

The Council have since 1919 issued a quarterly illustrated Magazine, printed 'in the house'. The *Clarendonian* publishes valuable and entertaining records of the professional interests and social activities of the employees of the Press, as well as affording some outlet for literary aspirations.

The Delegates lost a valued servant by the untimely death in August 1925 of Frederick John Hall, who had given to the Press forty-seven years of devoted service. The developments described above owed much to his energy and foresight and to his incessant care for the interests of the Press and its work-people. In appointing as his successor Mr. John Johnson (hitherto their Assistant Secretary) the Delegates have chosen a man of a quite different training, who comes comparatively late to the trade of printer. But Mr. Johnson brings to the management of this side of the business not only the rare ability and energy which so quickly made his reputation as a publisher, but also an exceptional interest in and knowledge of the technical and artistic aspects of typography, and an intimate knowledge of the workings of the Press as a whole.

§ 2. *The Press in the War*

THE Press made to the prosecution of the War both a direct and an indirect contribution. In August 1914 about 575 adult males were employed at Oxford; of these sixty-three, being members of the Territorial Force, were mobilized at the outbreak of war; and of the remainder some 293 enlisted in 1914 or later. Considering the number of those who from age or other causes were unfit for service, the proportion of voluntary enlistment was high. The London Office and Wolvercote Mill also gave their quota to the service of the Crown.

Those who were obliged to remain behind were not idle. The Oxford historians at once engaged in the controversy upon the responsibility for the War; and in September 1914 the Press published *Why We are at War: Great Britain's Case,* a series of essays closely and dispassionately reasoned, and illustrated by official documents including the German White Book, reproduced exactly from the English translation published in Berlin for neutral consumption and vitiated by clumsy variations from the German original. *Why We are at War* rapidly went through twelve impressions, and at the instance of Government was translated into six languages. The profits were handed over to the Belgian Relief Fund. At the same time was initiated, under the editorship of Mr. H. W. C. Davis, the series of Oxford Pamphlets on war topics, of which in a short time more than half a million copies were sold all over the world.

Later, when the public appetite for pamphlets slackened, and the world had leisure for closer study, the series of *Histories of the Belligerents* was founded, which is noticed elsewhere.

'The Clarendon Press,' wrote Sir Walter Raleigh in his Introduction to the *Oxford University Roll of Service*, 'though deprived of the services of virtually all its men of military age, was active in the production of books and pamphlets, most of them written by Oxford men, setting forth the causes and issues of the War—a mine of information, and an armoury of apologetics.'

Not the least of the services rendered by the Press was the printing done for the Naval Intelligence Department of the Admiralty directed by Admiral Sir Reginald Hall. Both secrecy and speed were essential to the usefulness of this work, and to secure them the Printer to the University made special arrangements involving a severe strain upon himself and those to whom the work was entrusted. Admiral Hall, when unveiling the Press War Memorial in October 1920, declared that the work done was unique in kind, and that without the help of the Press the operations of his Department could not have been carried out with success.

As the War dragged on, the numbers employed at the Press steadily declined; the demands of Government as steadily increased; the shortage of materials of all kinds became more and more acute. None the less the Bible Press met an unprecedented demand for the New Testament by supplying within three years four and a half million of copies for use in the field. The Learned Press, too, continued to produce, though the volume of production became less and less. The machinery of the Dictionary, though its movement was retarded, never came to a standstill. The scientific journals continued to appear, and not

a few learned books were published. A greater number, however, were placed in the Delegates' safes, in expectation of the increased facilities which the end of the War brought much more slowly than was hoped. The manufacturing powers of the Press have, indeed, now risen above their pre-war level, and the volume of learned publications has increased and is increasing at a pace which not long ago seemed impossible of attainment. But it remains true that learned publication imposes a far severer tax than formerly upon the resources of the Press. The Delegates, like other publishers, have had to consider that the purchasing power of the public on which they rely has not kept pace with the rise in costs. They have done their best to keep down prices; and the book-buying public, on its side, has made heroic efforts to pay the increased prices which it has been necessary to ask. The net result is that a book which before the War could be produced at a very modest loss, now involves a loss perhaps five times as great. The Delegates have no hesitation, therefore, in calling the attention of librarians, and of those who are responsible for the provision of library funds, to their urgent need of continued and increased support.

§ 3. *Wolvercote Paper Mill*

THE first mention of paper-making in or near Oxford is a story of one Edwards, who about 1670 planned to erect a mill at Wolvercote and was encouraged by Fell. In 1728 Hearne the antiquary wrote that 'some of the best paper in England is made at Wolvercote Mill'. It was bought by the Press in 1870.

The Mill stands on a branch of the Thames, on the edge of the quiet village of Wolvercote, and near the ruins of Godstow Nunnery. The water-wheel has long ceased to play more than a very minor part in the driving of the mill, which now has two modern paper-making machines, 72 and 80 inches wide respectively. The power used is partly steam, but a large part of the plant has quite recently been electrified.

Most varieties of high-class printing paper are made at Wolvercote, which besides feeding the Press does a considerable trade with other printers. The paper made for the Oxford Dictionary and some other books is of the finest rag and is probably as durable as the best hand-made paper of former times. But the Mill is best known for its 'Bible' papers, exceptionally thin, tough, and opaque, with a fine printing surface. Paper of this kind reaches its acme in the famous Oxford India Paper, the invention of which made revolutionary changes in the printing of Bibles. A great many Oxford books are now printed in two editions, an ordinary and an India paper. If the saving of

WOLVERCOTE PAPER MILL

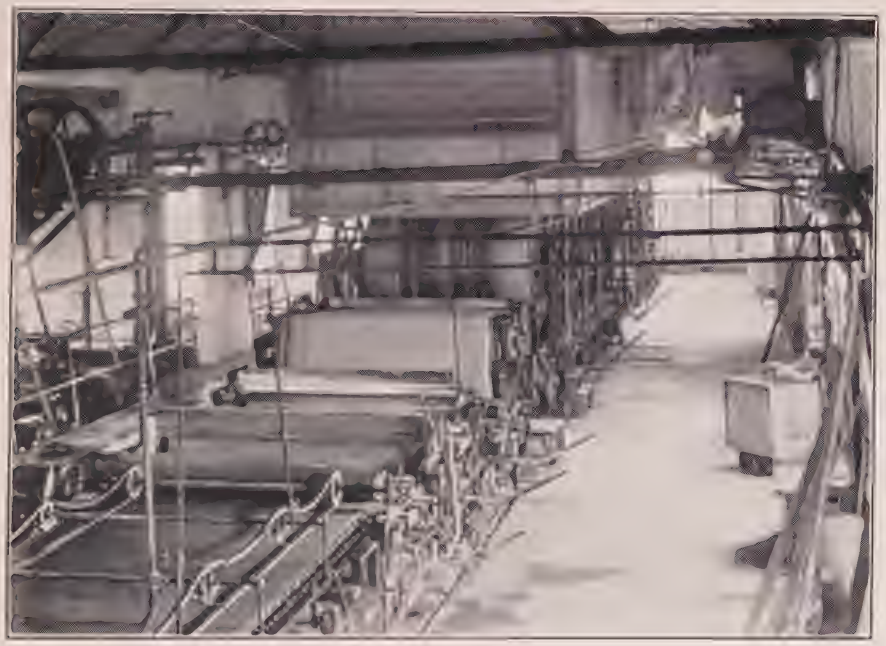
Rag Sorting

Rag Cutting

Rag Boiling

Rag Breaking

Beater Room



Machine Room

Paper Sorting

Paper Stock Warehouse

space is an important consideration, the convenience of the thinner editions of such books as the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, the *Concise Dictionary of National Biography*, or the *Oxford Survey of the British Empire* is obvious; and many people like to read the Poets and the Classics in thin and light volumes. The *Oxford Homer* will go into a pocket, though it has 1,374 pages; and the India paper *Shakespeare* and *Oxford Book of English Verse*[1] are delightfully easy to carry and handle.

The Controller of the Mill is Mr. Douglas Clapperton (a name well known in the paper trade), who succeeded Mr. Joseph Castle in 1916.

[1] Followed, at an interval of a quarter of a century, by the *Oxford Book of English Prose* by the same Q.

§ 4. *The Press in London*

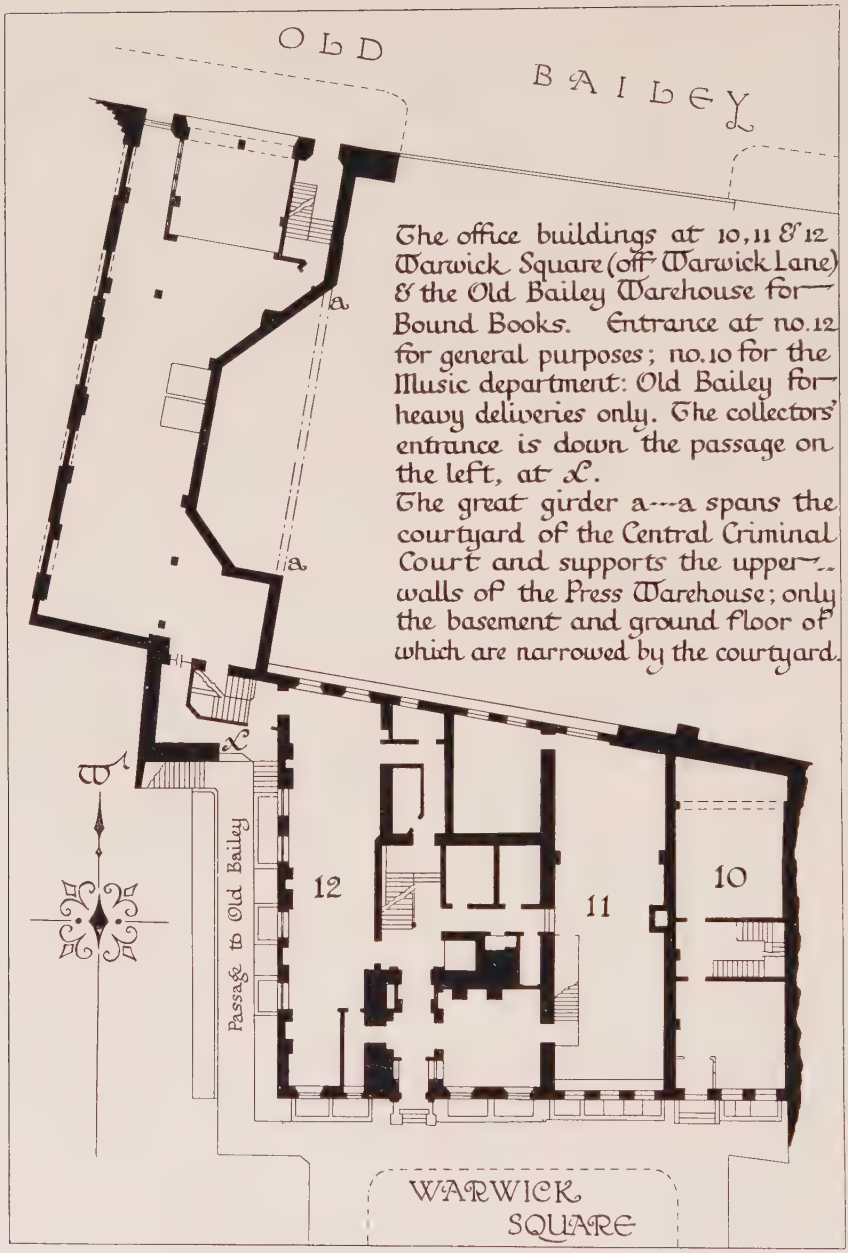
THE association of the Oxford Press with London booksellers—the publishers of former days—goes back to early times. Apart from the negative agreement with the Stationers' Company, *not* to print Bibles and Almanacks, we find, at the end of the seventeenth century, Oxford Bibles bearing the imprint of various London booksellers. In 1776 Dr. Johnson wrote to the Master of University College a letter, printed by Boswell, in which he sets forth with knowledge and perspicacity the philosophy of bookselling; the moral of the discourse is that the University must offer more attractive discounts to the book trade—a doctrine which has been adopted in modern times, though in 1776 it perhaps fell upon deaf ears.

Some time before 1770 a Bible Warehouse was established in Paternoster Row. But it was not until a century later that the Press undertook the distribution in London of its secular books. In 1880 these books, formerly sold by Messrs. Macmillan, were taken over by the Manager of the Bible Warehouse, Mr. Henry Frowde, who thus became sole publisher to the University; an office which he continued to hold with great skill, devotion, and success until on his retirement in 1913 he was succeeded by Mr. Humphrey Milford.

When the first edition of this sketch was published the London address of the Press had been unaltered since 1883, when premises at Amen Corner, London, E.C. 4,

AMEN CORNER LONDON

1883–1924



OFFICES AND WAREHOUSE IN LONDON

were leased from the Stationers' Company. In fact, however, these premises had ramified, by successive accretions, until they reached from Paternoster Row at one end to Ludgate Hill at the other. But expansion of this makeshift kind necessarily caused inconvenience; the distances were great, and the means of access and communication inadequate. When, therefore, the end of the lease came in sight it was reluctantly decided not to renew it, but to seek more commodious premises elsewhere. The Delegates were fortunate in being able to acquire the freehold of two adjacent houses in Warwick Square, and to erect capacious stock-rooms on vacant ground adjacent thereto. Their architect, the late Mr. Harvey Dyball, converted the houses into ample offices. On the ground-floor, to the left of the entrance, 12 Warwick Square, is the Bible showroom, similar to the old showroom at Amen Corner. On the same floor, to the right of the entrance, is the new Library of Clarendon Press and other secular books, which it had hitherto been impossible to show to advantage. In the library, as in the new showroom in Oxford, the books are arranged according to subjects, in shelves clearly labelled; so that a visitor interested in any subject may in a short time pass in review *all* the Oxford books which concern him.

Warwick Square lies off Warwick Lane, and is little more than a minute's walk from St. Paul's, Ludgate Circus, or the Post Office Tube Station in Newgate Street. It is hoped that the friends of the Press, and book-buyers in general—whether librarians, booksellers, teachers, and other professional men, or amateurs—will find time to visit the new premises and especially to inspect the library. Those who come seeking information or advice, or to make proposals for publication, will find that the

amenities of the Press in London—well known to two generations of authors—have suffered nothing from the removal. No. 11 Warwick Square has no architectural pretension; but No. 12 is a solid brick building of the Restoration period, and not wanting in dignity. Such of its internal decoration as survived has been carefully conserved. There is a broad staircase, with some fine carving, leading to what is now the Publishers' Room. This is a lofty panelled room, with a carved ceiling and fire-place in the style associated with the name of Grinling Gibbons. The furniture has been chosen with care, and is for the most part English, of the age of the house.

Between No. 12 and Old Bailey, and dominated by the 'ancient lights' of No. 12, lay a piece of vacant ground. On this Mr. Dyball erected a warehouse of seven floors. In the course of excavation the builders had to cut through a piece of London Wall. This has been left uncovered, and may be seen in the passage which leads from No. 12 to the basement of the warehouse.

The two lower floors of the basement are narrowed to a wasp's waist by a salient formed by the polygonal yard which is part of the precinct of the Central Criminal Court. But on the upper floors the building is restored to rectangularity by a large girder which spans the salient, so that a part of the yard is not adjacent but subjacent to the premises of the Press. This interesting example of modern steel construction is shown in the plan (*a* . . . *a*). The upper floors and the roof command a magnificent view of the dome of St. Paul's, and the residence of the Canons (Amen Court) can be seen far below.

The office entrance at Amen House is in Warwick Square; the trade-counter entrance is also in War-

WARWICK SQUARE

The sheds on right mark the site of the old College of Physicians. An old mansion occupies the SW. corner as seen in above

WARWICK SQUARE

wick Square, in the passage on the left (as you face Amen House). The main entrance to the stock-rooms is in Old Bailey.

The opening of the new premises was celebrated on 4 March 1924 by a luncheon held in the upper stock-room. The company consisted of very distinguished representatives of literature and learning and of the publishing and bookselling professions. The speakers were His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Randall Davidson), the Chancellor of the University (the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston), the Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith, and the Chancellor of the University of Cambridge (the Earl of Balfour). The principal themes were the history and traditions of the University Press, the services it has rendered to the cause of learning and education by the publication of the Oxford Dictionary and many other works, the prudent enterprise which has defrayed the cost of such publications, and finally the part played by the Press in the promotion of good literature of every kind, as well popular as learned or academic. The speeches were printed at the Press for private circulation; but greater honour has been paid them in Japan, where they have been included in a volume of Models of Eloquence.

Finally (following the order of chronology) the building has been neatly completed by the addition of No. 10 Warwick Square, which was in a ruinous condition and only held up by the adjacent walls. The front has been rebuilt by Mr. Stanley Hall, and that of No. 11 somewhat adapted, so as to form an harmonious façade. No. 10 has been mainly allocated to the growing needs of the Music department, and—which is perhaps a record

in the history of University Presses—has been equipped with a grand piano.

The activities of the Press in or near Amen House are multifarious. From his bound stocks Mr. Milford is ready at short notice to supply to the booksellers or booksellers' agents any Clarendon Press book, any Bible or Prayer Book, any of the books published by him for the University—such as Oxford Poets, World's Classics, Oxford Elementary Books, Oxford Medical and Technical Publications—or for the numerous learned bodies and American Universities for whom he is agent whether in the United Kingdom or universally.

Mr. Milford in 1925 completed twenty-five years in the service of the Press. On this occasion the Delegates recorded in their minutes their opinion that

'To Mr. Milford is due, in an eminent degree, the credit for the gradual and prudent extension of the foundations of the business, which has made its present prosperity and which justifies confidence in its future.'

In the premises at Amen House alone it is estimated that upwards of three quarters of a million books are at any one time in stock. Packing and distribution is carried on here and also at Falcon Square, where the large export department operates. Mr. Milford also maintains at Old Street a 'quire' department from which books in sheets are given out to his own or other binderies, and in Aldersgate Street a bindery from which many of the finest Bibles and other leather books are turned out.

The offices at Amen House are the centre of the selling activities of the Press; from them is directed the policy of the branches of the business at home and abroad. An institution so far-flung naturally causes some confusion in the public mind. Inquiries from India have sometimes been

THE PUBLISHER'S ROOM

THE LIBRARY

addressed to New York, and Mr. Horace Hart treasured an envelope addressed to *The Controller of the Universe.* In general, however, it is now widely understood that inquiries for books should be addressed (by booksellers, or by the public, if the usual trade channels fail) to *Oxford University Press* in London or at the nearest Branch (New York, Toronto, Melbourne, Cape Town, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Shanghai, Copenhagen); questions about printing to *The Printer to the University, Clarendon Press, Oxford,* and proposals for publication either to the nearest Branch or direct to the *Secretary, Clarendon Press, Oxford.*

§ 5. *The Administration of the Press*

ALL the activities of the Press may be described as a function of the corporation known as the *Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars* of the University of Oxford, acting through the Delegates of the Press. The constitution of this Delegacy is in some respects peculiar. So long ago as 1757 the statute promoted by Sir William Blackstone for the better management of the Press established the principles of continuity and of expert knowledge by the constitution of *Perpetual Delegates*; and these principles have been maintained.

The Delegacy is now composed of the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors for the time being *ex officio*, and (normally) of ten others, of whom five are Perpetual. Delegates are appointed for a term of years by the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors, by whom they may be re-elected; but when a vacancy occurs among the perpetual Delegates, the Delegates as a whole are enjoined by statute to 'subrogate' one of the junior Delegates to be perpetual, *ad supplendum perpetuo numerum quinque Perpetuorum Delegatorum.*

The roll of the Delegates contains the names of many famous scholars. Among those of recent times may be mentioned William Stubbs, Ingram Bywater, Frederick York Powell. Within the last few years the Press has sustained very heavy losses in the death of some of the most experienced of its Delegates. William Sanday, Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity, took an active part in the

many works of profound learning upon New Testament criticism, by which Oxford has maintained its fame for the prosecution of Biblical learning. Henry Tresawna Gerrans, Fellow of Worcester College, was active in financial administration and in the organization of educational publications. David Henry Nagel, Fellow of Trinity College, gave invaluable advice on scientific books and on technical processes of manufacture. He was chiefly responsible for the plan of the new Bindery at Oxford, which bears his name. The services of Sir William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine,[1] of Sir Walter Raleigh, Professor of English Literature, and of Charles Cannan, of Trinity College, for over twenty years Secretary to the Delegates, are noticed elsewhere in these pages.

The composition of the board on 1 October 1926 was as follows:

The Vice-Chancellor (Mr. Joseph Wells, Warden of Wadham College) and the Proctors; T. B. Strong, Bishop of Oxford and formerly Dean of Christ Church (*extra numerum*, by Decree of Convocation); C. R. L. Fletcher, Magdalen College; P. E. Matheson, Fellow of New College; D. G. Hogarth, Fellow of Magdalen College and Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum; H. J. White, Dean of Christ Church; Sir Archibald Garrod, Student of Christ Church and Regius Professor of Medicine—all perpetual Delegates: Cyril Bailey, Fellow of Balliol College: H. E. D. Blakiston, President of Trinity College; N. V. Sidgwick, Fellow of Lincoln College; W. D. Ross, Fellow of Oriel College and Deputy Professor of Moral Philosophy; and J. L. Brierly,

[1] The life by Harvey Cushing was published by the Delegates in 1925, and 20,000 copies were printed in the year of publication.

Fellow of All Souls College and Chichele Professor of International Law.

The principal officers are: *in Oxford*, R. W. Chapman, Oriel College, *Secretary*; Kenneth Sisam, Merton College, *Assistant Secretary*; John Johnson, Exeter College, *Printer to the University*; *in London*, Humphrey Milford, New College, *Publisher to the University*; *in New York*, W. W. McIntosh, Vice-President of the American Branch; *in Toronto*, S. B. Gundy, Manager of the Canadian Branch; *in Bombay*, G. F. J. Cumberlege, Worcester College, Manager of the Indian Branch; *in Melbourne*, E. R. Bartholomew, Manager of the Australian Branch.

§ 6. *The Finances of the Press*

FOR some two centuries from the time of Fell the Press was partly controlled by private partners; since the last of these was bought out by the efforts of Bartholomew Price, the University has been completely master of all its printing and publishing business. The Press to-day has no shareholders or debenture-holders, and subserves no private interest. On the other hand it possesses virtually no endowment. The whole of its great business has been gradually built up by the thrifty utilization of profits made by the sale of its books or in a minor degree from work done for outside customers. The maintenance of the Learned Press, with its output of scholarly and educational books, many of which are in their nature unremunerative, depends and has always depended upon the profitable management of the publications of the Press as a whole. In the last century the revenue devoted to learning was supplied mainly from the sale of Bibles and Prayer Books; but changing conditions led the managers of the Press to the conclusion that if the promotion of education and research were to keep pace with the growing volume and range of the demand, it would be necessary to expand the general activities of the business in many directions.

In prudent pursuance of a far-sighted policy, the overseas Branches of the Press were established to increase the sale of Oxford books; new departments of the publishing business were created, such as the very extensive series of

cheap editions of the English Classics, and, more recently, the Oxford Elementary Books, the Oxford Medical Publications, and the Oxford Musical Publications; and in the course of years the publications of the Learned Press itself have gradually become more popular in character and addressed to a wider audience. In the event, the Press to-day possesses a business of such magnitude and variety as will, it may be hoped, enable it to surmount the formidable obstacles which the increased cost of manufacture opposes to the production of all works of learning.

The demands made upon the Press for the organization and publication of research are now at least as great as ever. It has again and again been pointed out by the friends of research, that organization and encouragement are idle unless the publication of valuable results is guaranteed; and in the past scholars in this country, and not in this country only, have looked to the Presses of Oxford and Cambridge to do the work which in Germany was carried out by Academies subsidized by Government for this purpose. But the fulfilment of such expectations is far more onerous than formerly. The tenth and last volume of the great English Dictionary, now nearing completion, will when it is complete have cost not less than £50,000. The revised edition of Liddell and Scott's Greek Lexicon, upon which the Delegates embarked some years before the war, and of which the first part has been published (the second is imminent), is estimated to cost £20,000. These are enterprises in the successful conclusion of which the honour of the University is concerned; and they will be concluded; but the date of completion, and therefore the initiation of other projects of learning, have inevitably been retarded by the events of the last twelve years.

The endowment of research is a subject full of difficulties.

No one is more conscious than are the Delegates of the Press, that results of lasting value are not achieved by the mere expenditure of money. Yet they cannot but be aware that by the possession of the machinery and traditions of such works as the English Dictionary, and by their intimate association with experts in many fields, they are in a position to promote research and co-operative enterprise in the most effective and economical way. The support given to the Press in the past, whether by individuals or by other institutions devoted to learning, has been trifling in consideration of the work which it has produced. The need of such support is now far more urgent; and the record of the Press is proof that financial support would be turned to good account.

The strength of the Press has, none the less, been strikingly shown by the history of the years since the war. In this period the Delegates have been able to face heavy capital expenditure upon developments and expansions of their buildings and plant, which could not prudently be postponed. They have provided new premises in London and three large new buildings at Oxford, and have replaced a quantity of obsolete machinery. A great part of this work was considered to be necessary, and was all but put in hand, in 1914; its execution in the years following the war was therefore a matter not of choice but of necessity. Yet in the period under review the Delegates have been able to maintain a very considerable output of learned and educational work, upon which they have spent some £30,000 annually, without reckoning their expenditure upon the English Dictionary and the Dictionary of National Biography. Their present position allows them to look forward with confidence to the future. The costs of manufacture are still very high,

and are unlikely to decline. But there seems good reason to hope that an increased demand for Oxford books will enable the University to maintain, and even to increase, the volume of its production.

§ 7. *Oxford Imprints*

THE imprints used by the Press as printers and as publishers are various, and their import is not always understood. *Oxford at the Clarendon Press* is historically and strictly a printer's imprint, and it is confined to books printed at Oxford; but it has come to mean more than this, and to be appropriated to such books as are not only printed at Oxford, but are also published *auctoritate Universitatis*, their contents as well as their form being certified by the University, acting through the Delegates of the Press. A book with this imprint may in general be assumed to be published at the expense of the Delegates; but the 'Clarendon Press imprint' has come to be so prized as carrying the Oxford 'hall-mark' that its use has occasionally been solicited and accorded for works of learning produced under the patronage of government or of learned societies within the Empire and the United States of America.

The Press publishes also, in the ordinary course of business, large numbers of books for which the Delegates assume a less particular responsibility; these are issued with the London imprint of the Publisher to the University (*Oxford University Press: London, Humphrey Milford*) or those of its branches abroad (*Oxford University Press American Branch, Oxford University Press Indian Branch* and so on), or on behalf of the numerous universities, learned societies, or private publishers for whom the University

Explicit expositio sancti Jeronimi in simbolo apostolorum ad papam laurentium Impressa Oxonie Et finita Anno domini . M . cccc . lxviij . xvij. die decembris .

From the last page of the first Oxford book, 1468 (?1478)

¶ Expliūt sententiosa atq; studio digna expositio venerabilis Alexandri sup terau libz de anima. Impressum p me Theodericū wod de Colonia in alma vniuſitate Oxon. Anno incarnacōnis dñice. ſM. cccc. lxxxi. xi. die menſis Octobris.

¶ Impreſſum eſt preſens opuſculum in celeberima vniuerſitate Oxoniensi per me Joannem Scolar in viculo diui Joannis baptiſte mozam trahentz Anno dñi. M. CCCCC. octuagesimo octauo. Menſis vero Junij die ſeptimo.

Joseph Barnes at Printiodd yn Rhydychen. 1595.

Welsh

BELLOSITI DOBVNORVM

Excudebat *W.T.* Impensis *W.W.*

cIↃ IↃCXXVIII.

OXONIÆ
Ex Ædibus IOSEPHI BARNES
tertio Idus Ianuarij.
1585.

Joseph Barnes' first imprint

CIVIL WAR IMPRINTS

Printed by His MAJESTIES Command
AT OXFORD, February 4. 1642.
By LEONARD LICHFIELD, Printer *to the Vniverſity.* 1642.

Genuine

Printed by his Majeſties Command.

At OXFORD,
By *Leonard Lichfield*, Printer to the Univerſity.
MDCXLII.

Counterfeit

OXONII,

E TYPOGRAPHIA SHELDONIANA.

Anno Domini. M.DC.LXIX.

OXONII,

E Theatro SHELDONIANO.

Anno Dom. M. DC. LXX.

Printed at the THEATER in *OXFORD*, and are to be ſold by *John Wilmot*. 1671.

[The Theatre imprint went on till 1783]

OXONII,
E TYPOGRAPHEO CLARENDONIANO,
An. Dom. MDCCXIII.

OXFORD,
Printed for *Thomas Wood* at the Univerſity Printing-Houſe,
MDCCXXXVIII.

OXFORD,
PRINTED AT THE CLARENDON PRESS.
M. DCC. LVIII.

OXFORD,
At the CLARENDON PRINTING-HOUSE. M.DCC.LIX.

IMPRINTS IN BIBLES

OXFORD.
At the THEATER 1675.

OXFORD,
Printed by the *UNIVERSITY PRINTERS.* 1695.

OXFORD,
Printed by *JOHN BASKETT,* Printer to the King's moſt Excellent Majeſty, for GREAT BRITAIN: and to the UNIVERSITY. MDCCXVII.

OXFORD,
PRINTED AT THE CLARENDON PRESS,
By WILLIAM JACKSON and WILLIAM DAWSON, Printers to the UNIVERSITY:
And ſold at the Oxford Bible Warehouſe, in Paternoſter Row, London. 1795.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

Press publishes either universally or in certain parts of the world. Among the bodies for whom the Press acts as publisher are the British Museum, the British Academy, the Early English Text Society, the Chaucer Society, and the Philological Society; the Egypt Exploration Society, Society of Antiquaries, the Pali Text Society, the Church Music Society, and the Royal Society of Literature; the Universities of St. Andrews, Bombay, and Madras; the University Presses of Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and Princeton; the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the American Historical Association, and the American Scandinavian Foundation. *The Oxford Medical Publications* and some other books are issued with the joint imprint of Henry Frowde (Mr. Humphrey Milford's predecessor as Publisher to the University) and Hodder and Stoughton. The Press is publisher in Australia to many English houses.

§ 8. *Catalogues and Advertisement*

UNTIL recent years the Press has relied on its trade catalogues and special lists, and on the skilled assistance of the bookseller, to make known to the public the great number and variety of its issues of the Bible, the New Testament, Prayer Books, Hymn Books, and kindred works, as well as of its general publications—reprints, medical books, elementary books and so on; while the Clarendon Press Catalogue of learned and educational books was a relatively modest affair of under 200 pages. The need of a single general catalogue for the information of librarians and book-lovers had long been felt, but pressure of business delayed its preparation until the late Charles Cannan addressed himself to the task, and with the devoted co-operation of his daughters (who had replaced the members of the office staff gone forth to war) and the advice of many scholars, produced in 1916 the first edition of the *General Catalogue*, comprising over 500 pages of close print and including under one comprehensive classification all the secular books sold by the Press, wheresoever printed, and whether published by the University on its own account or on behalf of other University Presses or learned bodies; together with a representative list of Bibles, &c. (useful to the inquirer though not intended as any substitute for the elaborate trade catalogues or for the indispensable guidance of the expert bookseller), and a very full alphabetical index.

A second edition of the *General Catalogue* was issued in 1920, a third in 1922, a fourth in 1924, a fifth in the present year. This edition includes all books in print at 31 December, 1925. A Supplement is also published early in each year, covering the publications of the preceding year. The contents of these supplements are of course incorporated in successive new editions of the *General Catalogue*; thus the edition of 1926 incorporates *Books published in* 1924 and *Books published in* 1925. The *Catalogue*, however, is so large a book that no one can be expected to discover what is *new* in any edition of it; the supplements, on the other hand, it is hoped that booksellers, librarians, and others will make time to *per*use, at least for those subjects in which they may be specially interested.

The ascertainment of the particulars of any Oxford book necessarily becomes more difficult as the *General Catalogue* approaches the end of an edition. The maximum point of difficulty will be reached e.g. in December 1927, when any book will be found by reference to one or other of two indexes, viz.

(1) The index to the *General Catalogue* complete to 31 December, 1925.

(2) The index at the end of the current *Bulletin*, which covers all books published since the current *General Catalogue*. The *Bulletins* are paged continuously, and the index to the *last* is, naturally, that which should be consulted. It follows that each new *Bulletin* should be placed at the *end* of the row or the *bottom* of the heap.

Every effort is made, by a full use of cross-references and otherwise, to facilitate a rapid survey of recent Oxford books at any time. It is realized that their number and variety makes the use of such aids very necessary.

For the convenience of specialists the *Catalogue* is also issued in sections—History, Literature, the Classics, Natural Science, Cheap Reprints—and special lists have been made of books on such subjects as the British Empire, International Law and Politics, India, Modern Philosophy. Schoolmasters and University teachers are asked to apply for *Oxford Books for Secondary Schools* (June 1926), which by omission of the larger and more elaborate books allows of illustrative information for which there is no room in the *General Catalogue.*

The *General Catalogue* has been computed to contain some 10,000 distinct books or editions of books. These vary from such works as the *New English Dictionary* and the *Dictionary of National Biography*, with their 15,000 and 30,000 pages, to the smallest and cheapest pamphlets and schoolbooks. The total may be guessed to comprise something like two and a half millions of printed pages of which no two are identical.

The issue of the *Catalogue* has secured a wide and increasing recognition of the comprehensive character of Oxford publications. 'There are publishers and publishers, but there is only one Oxford University Press', exclaimed a writer in the *Athenaeum*; and many reviewers have noted with sympathetic admiration the value of the *Catalogue*, not as a mere price-list but as a work of reference and even as a book to read. Though it necessarily requires revision as new publications accrue, it is hoped that the *Catalogue* will not be treated as 'throw-away literature'. It is a well-printed and solidly bound book, and the cost of supplying free copies to book-buyers all over the world is not inconsiderable.

The Press produces two periodicals descriptive of its publications: the official *Bulletin* distributed to book-

sellers, librarians, and other professional buyers, and the unofficial *Periodical* addressed to amateurs. Number 1 of the *Bulletin* (4 April 1912) consisted of a single page; but the desire for more information was widely expressed, and an average number now contains in eight pages a classified list of books published during four weeks, with bibliographical and other particulars, a statement of the various catalogues obtainable on application, an alphabetical index of all books published since the current catalogue, and a list of books which have gone out of print since the current catalogue. This list is designed to protect booksellers and the public against the assumption, too frequently made, that any and every book is 'out of print' which cannot be produced at a moment's notice. The public are asked not to believe too easily that books are unobtainable. A provincial bookseller (in a University town) declared himself 'unable to trace' an Oxford book, published a year or so earlier, reviewed at length by the leading literary papers, and advertised nearly every other week in the *Times Literary Supplement*. Many books no doubt (though not *many* Oxford books) have been and still are out of print; and in the absence of an up-to-date index of current books, the difficulties of the bookseller have been great. Now, however, when the 1924 edition of the trade *Reference Catalogue* is available with its single alphabetical index (and supplementary index, 1925), the ascertainment of the facts is not difficult except in so far as the catalogues indexed have themselves become obsolete. All information about Oxford books that is *not* in the latest trade catalogue may be found in the latest *General Catalogue* or in the latest *Bulletin*; both of which every bookseller has, or may have for the asking. The circulation of the *Bulletin* is about 2,000.

The *Periodical* is a 'house magazine', perhaps the oldest of its kind. It was first published in December 1896, and now appears five times a year. Its contents include extracts, of sufficient length to be readable, from new Oxford books, specimen illustrations, quotations from reviews and other newspaper comment on the productions of the Press, obituaries and other honorific notices of authors (on appointment, decoration, or the like), and a certain amount of quasi-literary gossip; for even authors have their foibles. The original editor, who has compiled every number for a quarter of a century, is still at his post, and the popularity of the little paper increases. The demand comes from all over the world—the United States takes nearly half the total—and the number of copies distributed gratis of each issue now exceeds ten thousand.

Oxford Bibles and Prayer Books can be inspected in mass at many booksellers', as well as in the Showroom at 116 High Street, Oxford, and in those at Amen House, in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and in the Branches overseas. Lack of space formerly made it impossible to exhibit the far greater number of Clarendon Press and other secular books on the same scale. But it had long been realized that many Oxford books are less well known and less widely used than their merits deserve; and that no catalogues, however carefully prepared and however fully indexed, can take the place of inspection of the books themselves. Recent changes have made it possible to remedy this defect both in Oxford and in London. The old *Depository* at 116 High Street (opposite the south end of Turl Street and within a stone's throw of the Mitre Hotel) has been reconstructed so as to quadruple the space formerly available for exhibition. The books are now arranged according to subjects, and the shelves clearly labelled.

English Literature and Modern History, each of which occupies a wide extent of shelf-room, are further subdivided into periods. A visitor to the showroom may now survey, in the course of a few minutes, *all* Oxford books in any subject or branch of a subject; and more deliberate inspection is cordially recommended. At the same time may be seen the recent publications, and specimens of fine printing and illustrating, which are set out on tables. The tables themselves invite inspection, particularly the old wine-table in the reading room (upstairs), a very fine specimen of the Chippendale style.

Very similar arrangements have been made in the Library at Amen House in the City of London—see p. 41.

It is hoped that librarians, members of the teaching staffs of Universities and schools, and book-lovers in general, will avail themselves of these facilities both in Oxford and in London. Those who do so will find that they may turn the pages in comfort and quiet. Expert advice or assistance will be very readily given on application; but it will never be obtruded.

§ 9. *The Press and its Authors*

THE Index to the General Catalogue contains the names of some three thousand living authors and editors. With almost all of these the Press deals direct, and not through agents, and their friendly co-operation is of immense service to the Delegates and their officers both in planning books and in securing for them the widest publicity.

Many of the books accepted by the Press are such as in the ordinary way of business would not secure a publisher except under subvention from the author or some favourer of learning; and of these the remuneration (or at least the direct remuneration; for the publication of solid books, like the knowledge of Greek in former times, 'not infrequently leads to positions of emolument') is recognized as being nominal, and necessarily inadequate to the labour and skill lavished upon the work. But for books commanding a remunerative sale, if they are of a suitable kind, the Press is prepared to pay the full market value; and it is believed that not many of its authors are dissatisfied with the bargains they have made.

'It is an immense advantage to an author to be printed by a famous Press', is the opinion of a veteran of letters, whose name appears in many publishers' catalogues. It is the aim of the Oxford Press to place at its authors' service its capacity for accurate and beautiful printing and binding, the goodwill attached to the University

imprint, and the selling power enjoyed by its very large organization in the United Kingdom and throughout the world. Publication by the Press gives to an author the further security that his book will not be remaindered, pulped, or allowed to go out of print on the mere ground that it does not enjoy a rapid sale.

It is still sometimes said that 'the Press does not advertise'. It is believed that Oxford books, in an exceptional degree, advertise themselves and each other—'the Oxford book', says an American advertisement, 'is half sold already'; but the magnitude and variety of its business enable the Press to maintain an elaborate organization of 'publicity', which directs its efforts both to the booksellers and to the public at large. It relies largely upon the distribution, in many thousands of copies annually, of its catalogues and bulletins, on the direct dispatch of prospectuses to a large yet carefully selected constituency of buyers in various fields, and on the incalculable factor of public and private discussion. The value of judicious newspaper advertisement is not overlooked, as readers of the *Times Literary Supplement* well know.

The ease with which, in recent months, some 20,000 copies of *The Oxford Book of English Prose* and 50,000 of *Modern English Usage* have been sold, and nearly 200,000 of *The Pocket Oxford Dictionary*, may justly be claimed as evidence of the resources of the Press and of the confidence of the public.

To the Kings Most excellent Maiesty

§ 10. *Bibles and Prayer Books*

SOME account has already been given of the exercise by the University of its privilege of printing 'the King's books' in early times. The modern history of the printing and publishing of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer is a large subject. The University of Oxford, like the other privileged printers, has appreciated the obligations attached to the privilege as well as the opportunities which it affords. Every attention has been paid to accuracy and excellence of printing and binding, to the provision of editions suited to every purpose and every eyesight, and to the efficient and economical distribution of the books all over the world at low prices. In all these respects a standard has been reached which is unknown in any other kind of printing and publishing, and which is only made

THE HOLY

BIBLE,

Containing the

Old Teſtament

And the New:

Tranſlated out of the Original

Tongues and with the former Tranſlations
diligently compared and reviſed.

BY

His *Majeſties* ſpecial Command.

Appointed to be read in Churches.

OXFORD.
At the THEATER 1675.

THE ORDER OF

the Administration of

THE LORD'S SUPPER

OR

HOLY COMMUNION

Together with the Orders of

CONFIRMATION

THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRIMONY

AND THE CHURCHING OF WOMEN

According to the Use of

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Cum *Privilegio*

OXFORD

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

MCMXI

possible by long experience, continuous production, and intensive specialization. The modern Bible is so convenient to read and to handle that its bulk is not always realized; it is actually more than four times as long as *David Copperfield*. A reference Bible is, also, a highly complicated piece of printing. Accuracy is secured by the employment of highly-skilled compositors and readers—a new Bible is 'read' from beginning to end many times—and by the use of the best material processes; for all Bibles are printed from copper plates on the most modern machines, and the sheets are carefully scrutinized as they come from the press. The Oxford Press offers a guinea for the discovery of a misprint; but very few guineas have been earned.

The bulk and weight of Bibles are kept down by the use of very thin and opaque paper, especially made at the Press Mill at Wolvercote. The use of such paper, and especially of the Oxford India paper, the combination in which of thinness with opacity has never been equalled, may be said to have revolutionized the printing of Bibles, by making possible the use of large clear type in a book of moderate size and weight.

Of the Prayer Book as of the Bible a large number of editions is offered to suit all fashions and purposes, and this in spite of the serious risks arising from the liability to change of the 'royal' prayers. A demise of the Crown, or the marriage of a Prince of Wales, makes it necessary to print a large number of cancel sheets, which have to be substituted for the old sheets in all copies held in stock or in the hands of booksellers.

Some Oxford Prayer Books are among the most beautiful of modern books. The Coronation Prayer Book of 1910, in octavo, is a fine specimen; and the 'Fell' Prayer Book in large quarto, printed in black and red with

Bishop Fell's types, and lavishly embellished with the lovely ornaments or 'fleurons' which bear his name, may fairly stand comparison with the most famous productions of the modern private presses.

A hundred years ago there were nineteen Oxford Bibles and twenty-one editions of the Book of Common Prayer. There are now more than a hundred of each. The Revised Version of the Bible, the copyright of which belongs to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge jointly, is also published in a large variety of editions.

The Presses have given every facility for promoting the discussion of the vexed problem of Prayer Book revision, though it is obvious that the authorization of a revised form, whether permanently or otherwise, must involve them in very heavy outlays, while at the same time seriously affecting the value of their stocks and plates of the old book. The Oxford Press is the publisher of the 'Green Book' and of the 'Grey Book'.

ⲡⲁⲓⲁⲑⲏⲕⲏ ⲛⲃⲉⲣⲓ

ⲛⲉⲛ ⲧⲁⲥⲙⲓ ⲙⲡⲉⲛⲓⲣⲉⲩⲧⲏⲙⲓ

HOC EST

NOVUM TESTAMENTUM

ÆGYPTIUM *vulgo* COPTICUM

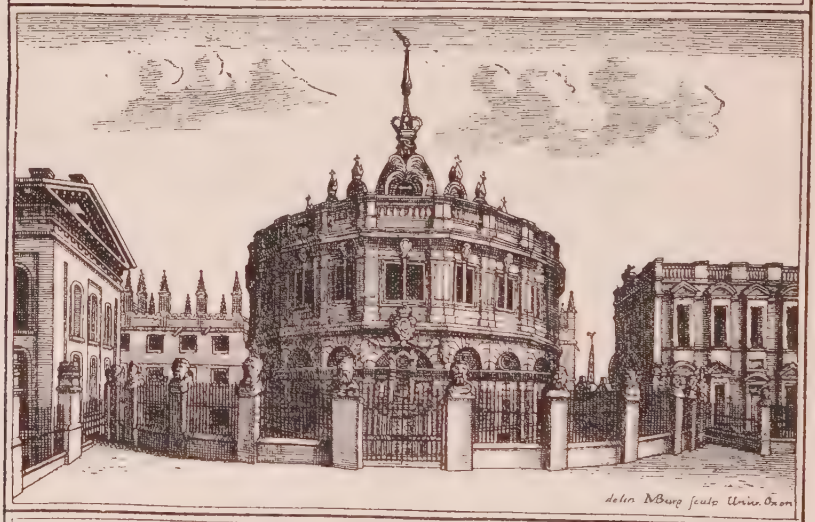
Ex MSS. BODLEJANIS *descripſit,*

Cum Vaticanis *et* Pariſienſibus *contulit,*

et in Latinum ſermonem convertit

DAVID WILKINS

Eccleſiæ Anglicanæ Presbyter.



OXONII,

E Theatro Sheldoniano *Typis et Sumptibus Academiæ, 1716.*

§ 11. *Clarendon Press Books*

BY Clarendon Press Books are meant the learned, educational, and other 'Standard' works produced under the close supervision of the Delegates and their Oxford Secretariat, and printed at Oxford. These books have a long history, and the *Catalogue* contains very many titles which have been continuously on sale for nearly a century. The Coptic New Testament of Wilkins, published in 1716, is believed to have been continuously on sale at the original price of 12*s.* 6*d.* until the last copy was sold in 1907, only a few years short of the second century. The first edition of the *General Catalogue* mentioned as 'the oldest Oxford book still on sale' another edition of the Coptic New Testament by Woide, published in 1799 and now sold for two guineas; but it has since been noticed that an injustice had been done, and that pride of place should have been given to the Gothic Gospel, a magnificently printed quarto published in 1750, of which some dozen copies (at 30*s.*) still remain.

These are extreme examples; they are, however, the result not of oblivion or of indifference, but of a policy which has long been and is still being pursued. The Press produces many works of learning which are so securely based that it is known that the demand, however small, will persist as long as there are copies unsold; and it is the practice of the Press to print from type large editions of such books. Clarendon Press books are neither wasted

nor sold as remainders, and when a book goes out of print, some natural tears are shed.

This is one end of the scale; at the other are books commanding a large and rapid sale, books like the *Oxford Book of English Verse*, the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, the *Pocket Oxford Dictionary* (which sold 100,000 copies in its first nine months), and *livres de circonstance* like *Why We are at War*, which was published in September 1914 and in a few months went through twelve impressions and was translated into six foreign languages. Books of this kind are produced in mass, as cheaply as is consistent with a high standard of workmanship, and are sold all over the world in competition with rival publications and by the employment of appropriate methods of advertisement.

Between these two classes lies a great mass of miscellaneous books, too general in character to admit of description here. They are in many languages, ancient and modern, of the East and of the West; of all fields of knowledge, divine, human, and natural; and of all stages of history from the Stone Age to the Great War and its sequels. It follows necessarily that Clarendon Press books appeal to widely different publics and call for the application of various instruments of distribution and publicity. All, however, benefit by the widely diffused appreciation of the standards of scholarship and of literary form which the Press has set itself to uphold. The public expects much of any Oxford book, and the satisfaction of that expectation is often onerous; but the necessary effort is justified by the results—'the Oxford book is half sold already'.

III

THE PRESS ABROAD

§ 1. *The Press in India*

THE activities of the Press in India are of relatively recent date. Until 1912, when a branch was opened in Bombay, Oxford books had been accessible only to those who were determined to procure them. The existence of a distributing centre made it possible to reach more directly the educational and the general public. But it early became apparent to the Manager—Mr. E. V. Rieu of Balliol College—that the educational needs of India could only to a small extent be met by direct importation; that it was necessary to adapt existing books to the special requirements of the country, and to create new books similar in kind. In the course of a few years many such books were produced, at

first chiefly in England, but later to an increasing degree in India itself. By 1918 at least a dozen native presses were engaged in printing and binding for the Branch. These books range from 'simplified classics' to editions of Shakespeare's plays, from school geographies to hand-books for students of medicine and law. At the same time the sale of more advanced Oxford books was largely increased. A brief description is given elsewhere of the books produced at Oxford upon the history and art of India as well as upon its classical literature and its religions. Books like Mr. Vincent Smith's *Early History of India* and his *Fine Art in India* command a wide sale among cultivated Indians.

Another field of enterprise is in vernacular education. Here the opportunities are vast, but the difficulties are great, for in most provinces many languages are spoken, and no one press is adequately equipped with the numerous founts of type required to deal with the vernaculars of India as a whole. The Branch was therefore fortunate in being, in 1916, invited by the Government of the Central Provinces to produce a series of Readers—in Hindi and Marathi—for use in schools throughout the province. At that time no paper could be imported from England, and the staff of the Branch was depleted by war. Nevertheless, within a year over half a million volumes had been written, printed, and illustrated, and were ready for distribution over a country nearly twice as large as England and Wales.

The activities of the Branch in placing the issues of the War before Indian readers in a true light attracted in 1918 the attention of Government; and the Branch was engaged by the Central Publicity Bureau to produce an illustrated War Magazine and a mass of pamphlets in English and the vernacular tongues.

In spite of these preoccupations the Branch has been able to emulate the activities of the Press at home by co-operating with learned bodies in India to produce books of scientific value. Notable among its publications in this kind are the historical treatises of Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. Kincaid, Mr. Mookerji, and other writers, and the economic studies published on behalf of the Universities of Bombay and Madras.

Mention may also be made here of the *Classics of Indian History* which are being issued by the Press. In reviewing a volume of this series—Meadows Taylor's *Story of my Life*—The Times Literary Supplement says: 'It is one of those books from which history hereafter will be written. The great books—in one sense or other—like Colonel Mark Wilks's *Historical Sketches of Southern India,* Grant Duff's *History of the Mahrattas,* Tod's *Rajasthan,* Broughton's *Letters from a Mahratta Camp,* must be supplemented not only by the native records, which are more and more becoming accessible, but by the personal narratives of Englishmen who lived in out-of-the-way places and entered into the lives of the rural inhabitants of India. Beside Colonel Sleeman's *Reminiscences* must be put the autobiography of Meadows Taylor, a much superior book.' Of the books mentioned by *The Times*, Sleeman's, Tod's, and Grant Duff's have already been issued, uniform with Meadows Taylor's, Dubois's *Hindu Manners*, Bernier's *Travels*, Tavernier's *Travels*, Mrs. Meer Hassan Ali's *Mussulmanns*, and Cunningham's *Sikhs*; an edition of Broughton is in preparation.

Mr. Rieu, when in 1919 reasons of health compelled him to retire, had in a few years proved himself a real pioneer. He had immensely increased the volume of business done by the Branch, and had opened up new and promising

fields. His successor, Major G. F. J. Cumberlege, D.S.O., of Worcester College, took over a successful and growing business. The original premises in Bombay had already been outgrown, and new offices opened in Elphinstone Circle. The increase of staff has made it possible to open a new branch in Calcutta—a sub-branch in Madras already existed—and it is confidently hoped that in the near future the business done in Oxford books, and adaptations of them, will be increased in volume, and that the service rendered by Oxford to the Indian Empire will be further enhanced by the activities of its Press.

THE TORONTO BRANCH

§ 2. *The Press in Canada*

THE Oxford University Press Canadian Branch was founded in 1904 at 25 Richmond Street West, Toronto. The manager was Mr. S. B. Gundy, who still presides at the same address; but the building was destroyed by fire in 1905 and completely reconstructed.

Although Canada has still a relatively small population, scattered over an immense area, the volume of business done by the Branch is substantial, and it continues to grow. The sale of Oxford Bibles, Clarendon Press books, Medical and Elementary books is supplemented by the sale of books published in Canada and the United States, for which Mr. Gundy acts as agent. Thus the Branch sells all the publications of the great American house of Doubleday, Page and Company; and through this connexion it has recently become the sole publisher in Canada of the works of Mr. Rudyard Kipling.

Among the more notable Canadian enterprises of the Press are the Church of England Hymn Book (the *Book of Common Praise*), published in 1909, the large stocks of which caused Mr. Gundy 'to overflow into a neighbouring barber shop', and the new edition of the Presbyterian *Book of Praise*, produced in defiance of submarines and other obstacles in 1917. The editor, the Rev. Alexander Macmillan, carried the manuscript across the Atlantic in small packets sewn into his clothes.

§ 3. *The Press in Australasia*

THIS part of the business was first developed by visits regularly made from London by Mr. E. R. Bartholomew, who in 1908 became manager of the Branch then established at Cathedral Buildings, Melbourne. Australia is not only many thousands of miles from the great centres of book-production, but is itself a land of great distances, as yet but sparsely populated; and this creates difficulties for both publishers and booksellers. It is remarkable how far these obstacles have been overcome; and if regard is paid to the number and character of the population, Australia, and New Zealand no less, have a right to be proud of the quantity and quality of the books they buy.

The Branch has paid attention to the special needs of Australian education, and in co-operation with the universities and schools has produced a number of successful text-books.

It acts as agent for some of the leading British publishers, including the houses of Murray, Heinemann, Black, Chapman and Hall, and Mowbray; and for the large publishing business of Messrs. Angus and Robertson of Sydney.

THE MELBOURNE BRANCH

MARKHAM'S BUILDINGS, CAPE TOWN

in which the South African Branch is situated

§ 4. *The Press in South Africa*

THE South African Office of the Press is at Markham's Buildings, Adderley Street, Cape Town. Mr. C. R. Mellor, the present Representative, was appointed to that post in March 1915. From his office at Cape Town Mr. Mellor visits the principal booksellers, not only in the Cape Province, but in the Transvaal, the Orange Free State, and Natal.

§ 5. *The Press in China*

THE Chinese Agency of the Press is at C 445 Honan Road, Shanghai, of which Mr. T. Leslie is the present Representative. The first agent in China for the Press was the Christian Literature Society of Shanghai, the agency being started in 1913. Mr. Leslie, who had been manager of that Society, took over the Press agency in 1917. Stocks of all Oxford books likely to be in demand in China are held in Shanghai.

§ 6. *The Press in Scandinavia*

FOR many years before the war a traveller from Amen Corner visited the Continent annually, but business in Scandinavia developed so rapidly after the Armistice that it was found desirable to open a Branch, and premises were accordingly secured in Copenhagen, Mr. H. Bohun Beet, the Continental traveller of the Press, being appointed manager. The Branch was opened in August 1920, at St. Kongensgade 40 H, close to the King's Palace. The Branch represents also Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton and the Medici Society.

§ 7. *The Press in the United States*

THE sale of Oxford books in the United States began long before the foundation of the *American Branch*. It is recorded that 'the growth of the business was hindered by the Civil War, but after the restoration of peace it grew rapidly'; and that a landmark in its progress was the publication of editions of the American Book of Common Prayer.

The foundation of the Oxford University Press American Branch, an institution which has made the name of Oxford familiar throughout the Union, was due to the foresight and enterprise of Mr. Henry Frowde. Acting on his advice the Delegates of the Press authorized the formation of a Corporation in the State of New York, and the Branch in 1896 opened premises at 91 Fifth Avenue, under the management of the late Mr. John Armstrong. In the following year Mr. Armstrong added to the Bibles and other books, previously sold by Messrs. Nelson, the Clarendon Press publications, previously sold by the Macmillan Company. The business grew rapidly in Mr. Armstrong's hands, and in 1908 moved 'up town' to the premises it now occupies at 35 West 32nd Street. Mr. Armstrong died in 1915, and was succeeded by Mr. W. W. McIntosh, one of the original members of the staff.

The main function of the Branch has always been that of keeping the American public acquainted with Oxford books, both sacred and secular, and of supplying the books without avoidable delay. To this end it has been necessary

THIRTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK

The New York Branch is situated in the Central Building on the right

Bible Show Room

Clarendon Press Show Room

SHOW ROOMS AT THE NEW YORK BRANCH

to hold large stocks in New York, and to maintain an expert staff which is in touch with the book-stores and with the universities, the schools, and the book-buying public at large. The Branch has its own catalogues and its own advertisements, and it has been able to make Oxford Bibles and Clarendon Press books known and valued throughout the United States. The Branch, however, is not merely an importer; it has long recognized that many Oxford products are capable of useful adaptation to special American requirements, and that such adaptation is consistent with the preservation of what Americans have themselves called 'the Oxford stamp'. This aspect of the activities of the Press in America is shown by the large number of Bibles which are manufactured ('made' is the American idiom) in the United States—among these the now famous *Scofield* Reference Bible is conspicuous—and also by books written—or at least rewritten—for American requirements. The Branch, in co-operation with American scholars, has produced valuable series of text-books for schools and universities—the *Oxford English Series*, the *Oxford French Series*, and the *Oxford German Series*. Even more important, perhaps, are adaptations of Oxford books of tried merit. Thus the *Oxford Loose-Leaf Surgery* derives from a (British) Oxford original (one of the *Oxford Medical Publications*), but has important differences in substance as well as in its novel form. This very successful work is now being followed by the *Oxford Loose-Leaf Medicine*, edited by Dr. Henry Christian and Sir James Mackenzie with the help of leading physicians on both sides of the Atlantic. To promote co-operation of this kind in medical science was a great part of the life-work of William Osler, who, as Regius Professor at Oxford, and a leading promoter of the Oxford Medical Publications, may be described as the founder of the medical activities

of the Oxford Press as they are now carried on in Oxford, in London, in New York, and in Toronto.

Another work of adaptation, now in progress, illustrates further the possibilities of Anglo-American co-operation. The *Concise Oxford Dictionary* and *Pocket Oxford Dictionary* of current English, adapted from the great Oxford Dictionary, have been and are very widely used throughout the British Empire and by students of English in foreign countries. But their spelling, and certain other features, were found to disqualify the book for general use in the United States; and special American editions are now in preparation, the adapter of which is Mr. G. Van Santvoord, of Oriel College, Oxford, and Yale University.

The Press is publisher, on both sides of the Atlantic, to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, many of whose books have been printed at Oxford. Special mention may be made of the first volumes of the British Section of the great *Economic and Social History of the World War*, undertaken by the Endowment.

IV

OXFORD BOOKS

§ 1. *Oxford Series*

AT one time Oxford books were produced almost always at the instance of an author; and many Oxford books are still so produced. A scholar having devoted, it may be, many years of his life to a subject which he has made his own, applies to the University Press for publication of his researches; and such a claim is often admitted as irresistible. In modern times, however, the need for organization by the publisher has become increasingly apparent. Many books which if published in isolation would reach only a small public are found capable of a wider usefulness when issued as part of a larger plan; and thus the initiative in publishing passes more and more into the hands of the professional commanding the advice of a body of experts. School-books, reprints of the Classics, text-books of the

applied sciences, and books of the nature of Dictionaries and Encyclopaedias are now almost always conducted in this way by co-operative enterprise.

The number of such homogeneous series promoted by the Press during the last twenty years is large, even if all school-books are excluded. The *Oxford English Dictionary* (which is of earlier origin) bulks so large in the public eye as somewhat to obscure enterprises on a scale less vast; but it does not stand alone. In English literature the Press has built up in a quarter of a century a whole library of uniform series, all of respectable dimensions. The *Oxford English Texts* are library editions of famous authors edited after exhaustive examination of the materials, in print and in manuscript, and handsomely printed from type; the *Tudor and Stuart Library* consists of first editions and exact reprints of books of that period, printed in the types of the period on paper calculated to last for many centuries more; these books are now finding their way into the second-hand catalogues and the collections of connoisseurs; the *Oxford Miscellany* is a series of little books for fanciers, offering especially the classics of Literary Criticism and of the Romantic Revival in a form approximating to that of the originals; the *Oxford Poets* claim to be the last word for accuracy of text, condensed yet fine printing, and the lowest price compatible with these qualities; the *Oxford Standard Authors* offer the same texts as the Oxford Poets, together with many prose classics, in a cheaper form; the average volume containing nearly 600 pages of close yet legible print. Finally, the *World's Classics* furnish a collection of nearly three hundred of the most famous English books in a very handy form; some of the recent additions, notably *Moby Dick*, Walpole's *Autobiography*, and Mr. Milford's second volume of *Short Stories*, have been conspicuously successful.

None of these series has been created by the simple expedient of taking an existing edition and sending it to the printer—a plan too commonly followed, as is well known to every one who has ever investigated the text of a well-known author, and has found that each edition contains almost all the errors of its predecessors and adds fresh errors of its own. The Oxford texts are the result of the laborious co-operation of editor, publisher, and printer, involving the choice of the most authoritative original—very often the collation of a number of printed originals and sometimes of manuscripts as well—expert attention to the problems both editorial and typographical of which the successful solution produces a well-designed book, and finally scrupulous diligence in the elimination of error. The substantial accuracy of Oxford texts is widely recognized, and is known to be due to the united vigilance of the editors, the publishers (themselves scholars and occasionally editors), and the printers. It is less well known how complex and difficult are the problems which the modern editor has to solve. The scientific editing of English texts is indeed a relatively recent growth, and depends upon the application of principles which in the field of Greek and Latin textual criticism have been elaborated in the course of centuries. It is thus no accident that the work done in English editing in the last five-and-twenty years has been largely in the hands of scholars trained in the Oxford school of *Literae Humaniores*, and has synchronized with the production of the *Scriptorum Classicorum Bibliotheca Oxoniensis*.

This series, now popularly known as the *Oxford Classical Texts*, is the only large series of critical texts of Greek and Latin authors produced in recent times outside Germany and able to hold its own in competition with its great

German rivals. The texts, which now fill nearly eighty volumes and include the most important writers of the 'classical' periods of Greek and Roman literature, have been based upon much fresh examination of the manuscript originals. Some of the editors, indeed, have devoted years to this kind of investigation; the labours of Mr. Allen on the manuscripts of Homer and of Professor Clark and Sir William Peterson on those of Cicero have secured for their authors a permanent place in the long history of classical scholarship.

The aim of the series is to give the best text which the examination of the manuscripts in their relation to each other affords, and to provide in a brief *apparatus criticus* sufficient information to show the evidence on which the editor has based his decision. Conjectural emendations are mentioned in the notes when they are considered plausible, but are not admitted to the text except where they reach a high degree of probability. This principle, which is mainly due to the authority of the late Ingram Bywater, has commended itself in the course of years even to those who were at first disposed to think it too austere, and has greatly enhanced the permanent value of the series, which before the war was finding its way into Germany itself. A famous German publisher went so far indeed as to address to Oxford (on the eve of the war) a letter of remonstrance on the price of the series, which was described as too low for its value.

The *Oxford Library of Translations* consists mainly of prose versions of Greek and Latin authors. These have not been made to order or in accordance with any single principle of translation, but have been produced at the instance of scholars unable to deny themselves the satisfaction of trans-

lating a favourite author. This, which is perhaps the best guarantee of excellence, accounts for the miscellaneous constitution of the series, which has been enlarged by degrees as a happy conjunction of author and translator chanced to present itself, and from the same cause admits some interesting authors seldom or never included in series of translations made upon a less elastic plan.

Another series of translations is the great collection of the *Sacred Books of the East*, which was begun many years ago by the late Max Müller and reached its fiftieth and concluding volume in 1910. The value of these translations to Orientalists is shown by the steady sale, which after forty years is still increasing, and by the high prices asked for the few volumes which are now out of print.

History, and the subjects akin thereto, afford less scope for homogeneous series than does the editing of ancient and modern classical literature; and it has been the policy of the Press rather to secure monographs of unique authority in special fields than to compile works of encyclopaedic information. A few examples will serve to illustrate the range and importance of the Oxford books produced in this way which have become classics in their subject: in the History of Antiquity, Sir Arthur Evans's *Scripta Minoa*, Sir Edward Maunde Thompson's *Palaeography*, Vincent Smith's *Early History of India*; in the Fine Arts, Barclay Head's *Historia Numorum*, Vincent Smith's *Fine Art in India*, Dalton's *Byzantine Art*; in Constitutional History and Law, Anson's *Law and Custom of the Constitution* and *Law of Contract*, Sir Courtenay Ilbert's *Government of India*, Lord Bryce's *Studies in History and Jurisprudence*, Hall's *International Law*, Prof. Keith's *Responsible Government*, Sir Erskine Holland's *Jurisprudence*; in British History, Stubbs's

Constitutional History of England, Freeman's *Norman Conquest*, Sir Paul Vinogradoff's *Villainage in England* and *English Society in the Eleventh Century*, Sir Charles Oman's *Peninsular War*; in European History, Finlay's *Greece*, Hodgkin's *Italy and Her Invaders*; in Geography, Prof. Beazley's *Dawn of Modern Geography* and Mr. R. L. Poole's great *Historical Atlas*.

The Press has reason to be proud of the additions made to its list of solid works of scholarship in recent years. It will suffice to mention Mr. Rice Holmes's *Roman Republic*, Dr. Kidd's *Early History of the Church*, the late Sir Paul Vinogradoff's *Historical Jurisprudence*, Sir Thomas Heath's *History of Greek Mathematics*, Sir Edmund Chambers's *Elizabethan Stage*, Prof. Rostovtzeff's epoch-making books on ancient civilization, Prof. Strzygowski's *Christian Church Art*, Mr. Dalton's *East Christian Art*, and critical editions of the *Hermetica*, of the Alexandrine Poets, of the Caroline Poets (Prof. Saintsbury's concluding volume), of Swift's *Tale of a Tub*, of Boswell's Letters. These are specimens only of a list which might be prolonged almost indefinitely without including any book that is not of first-rate importance in its field.

Books of this kind best represent the type at which Oxford has aimed in the historical and human sciences, and it is to the promotion of such works that the resources of the Press have in this field been most advantageously applied. When, however, the progress of a subject and the enthusiasm of an editor have combined to suggest another way, the opportunity has been taken of organizing research upon a common plan. Notable results of such combined endeavour are the *Oxford Survey of the British Empire* and the *Historical Geography of the Dominions* promoted by the late

Shakespeare's England

An Account of the
Life & Manners
of his Age

Volume
I

Clarendon Press Oxford
In the Tercentenary Year
1916

Prof. Herbertson and by Sir Charles Lucas of the Colonial Office respectively. The former work, containing in six volumes a general and a particular survey of the geographical, economic, and administrative aspects of the Empire and its constituent parts, was completed within a short time and published within a few weeks of the outbreak of the war. In an important sense therefore it cannot become out of date, since it affords a conspectus of conditions as they existed at the culmination of the former age, to which it will always be necessary to refer as a standard of comparison. The other series, which is in seven volumes (comprising twice as many separate parts), has had a longer and more chequered history, the march of events since the early years of the century, when publication began, having made necessary frequent revision and reconstitution. The work is still in progress, and India has recently been added to its scope.

A more recent collection arose out of the demand during the war for a compendious survey of the history of the belligerent powers. To satisfy the demand was one of the pieces of war work undertaken by the Press, and the evident usefulness of the volumes having survived the war has led to the establishment of a series on a permanent and wider plan, including Histories of the Nations and treatises of similar scope on leading questions of International politics. The series now covers Ireland, France, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, the Balkans, Serbia, Russia, Prussia, Arabia, Persia, China, and Japan, with books on the Eastern Question, Diplomacy, Nineteenth-Century Treaties, and other topics. Many of the volumes have been frequently reprinted.

Not the least interesting of Oxford books written by a number of contributors on a uniform plan is *Shakespeare's England, an Account of the Life and Manners of his*

Age, published in two volumes in the centenary year 1916. The book contains an Ode by the Poet Laureate, a long essay on the Age of Elizabeth by Sir Walter Raleigh, and some forty special articles by the first authorities. A companion volume has recently been added on *Mediaeval England*.

Conspicuous among the activities of recent years is the launching of *The World's Manuals*—a series of brief introductory volumes, written by specialists but so planned as to make the elements of a subject intelligible to a general reader, in so far as such intelligibility can be achieved without over-simplification or the suppression of real difficulties. The series already numbers over forty volumes, and has been widely and enthusiastically welcomed.

§ 2. *Oxford Books on the Empire*

OXFORD is proud to consider itself as *par excellence* the Imperial University. The administration of the Empire owes much to Oxford men, as the University in its turn owes much to her sons from overseas. Imperial subjects are an important and growing branch of study at Oxford; and the Press, true to its tradition of building upon the foundations of experience, has in time put together an imposing collection as well of the classics of colonization and administration as of new and original treatises by scholars versed in its theory and practice. These books being very diverse have not been confined within the limits of a series uniform in size or appearance; but they have a real unity, and deserve, it is believed, to be acquired as a whole by every library with any pretensions to an imperial character. Among the most important volumes may be enumerated Wakefield's *View of the Art of Colonization*, first published in 1849, Lord Durham's *Report on British North America*, Cornewall Lewis's *Government of Dependencies*; and (among modern treatises) Prof. Keith's *Responsible Government* (in its present form published as recently as 1912, yet already an established classic), and the same author's *Imperial Unity*, Prof. Egerton's *Federations and Unions*, Sir Courtenay Ilbert's *Government of India*.

The Press is so strong in books on *India* that it has seemed well to issue a special catalogue bringing together a mass of books which in the General Catalogue are listed under a variety of subject-headings. These include a large and

important section published by the Press under the patronage of the Secretary of State—notably the *Imperial Gazetteer of India* in twenty-six volumes, the noble series of documents on the early history of 'John Company' compiled at the India Office, and the sumptuous publication of Sir Aurel Stein's discoveries in Turkestan; but they include also a whole library of books produced by the Press at its sole charges and dealing with the history of India from the Empire of Asoka to the formulation of Dyarchy, with the geography, politics, and economics of modern India, and with the religion and literature, the fine art, and the music of Hindustan. The production by the Press in India itself of vernacular and other educational books has recently made great progress. (See also p. 75 for some notice of the series of *Classics of Indian History*.)

§ 3. *The Oxford Standard*

THE standard of scholarship, accuracy, and literary excellence which the Delegates maintain in the books published under their authority is believed to be as high as that attempted by any other publisher in the world. Its maintenance imposes upon the Delegates much labour and expense; but the effort is repaid in the reputation which Oxford books enjoy in the public estimation. The supervision exercised by the Delegates, both personally and through their advisers, is not limited to the initial judgement passed upon a book offered to them for publication; it extends through the whole process of revision in manuscript and in proof. When a book is favourably considered, an expert's detailed report is very often laid before the author, who is asked to consider the suggestions made and to confer with the Delegates' advisers; and this process of scrutiny is frequently far-reaching, the criticism being invited at one stage or another of a number of specialists in various fields. In this way many, perhaps most, of the books produced by the Press have received substantial improvement; and not a few have undergone something like transformation. To these benefits abundant testimony is borne in the prefaces of authors; more, perhaps, reposes in the archives in Walton Street.

The technical services rendered to scholarship by the Clarendon Press proof-readers are likewise commemorated in many a preface. The late Mr. J. C. Pembrey, who in 1847 read Wilson's *Sanskrit Grammar*, and in 1916 read Prof. Macdonell's *Vedic Grammar* for press, was well known to three

generations of Oriental scholars; the late Mr. W. F. R. Shilleto did much to secure accuracy and uniformity in the series of *Oxford Classical Texts*; and Mr. George Ostler has left the marks of his vigilance upon many editions of the English classics. Long training in a severe school develops unusual powers; and authors are sometimes startled by instances of what seems beyond natural acumen. An author who had misquoted *Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis* in the usual form, was naturally astonished when the reader inquired in the margin 'Should it not be *et nos*?', which is of course unmetrical. The reader was right, nevertheless; but the source of his information remained obscure. In fields less recondite than this the authority of the readers is generally recognized; many editors have confessed that in the matter of Greek accents they should not think of disputing it.

The attention thus paid to the claims of scholarship and accuracy brings doubtless unmixed benefits to learning and education. To the Press as a business concern the blessing is less unequivocal. The Delegates' resources are not without limits; and they are sometimes embarrassed by the ambitions of learned authors from all parts of the world, to whom nothing but the imprint of the Clarendon Press seems an adequate reward. They are obliged to pick and choose, and sometimes to decline a proposal which would attract them if it had fewer rivals. Another imputation is less deserved. A distinguished American who had been invited to dine in an Oxford College confessed afterwards that as he entered the room his knees knocked at the thought that 'all these Fellows talked Latin'; and the public is sometimes frightened away from an Oxford book by the apprehension that it will be found full of Greek quotations. There is in fact no necessary connexion between accuracy and pedantry;

and even Dons are often men of the world, well acquainted with the limitations of the average intelligence. No one need be afraid that an Oxford book on any ordinary subject will be any more abstruse than another book, though its facts will perhaps be better authenticated and its arguments more closely reasoned. The booksellers know this; and in reply to a customer's inquiry 'Is this a good book?' have been heard to reply 'Why, it's an Oxford book'.

Another fallacy which dies hard is that Oxford books are dear. This is perhaps no more than a hasty inference from the fact that Oxford produces an exceptionally large proportion of books which from their nature cannot be cheap. No one would expect to buy Liddell and Scott's Greek Lexicon, or the *Index Kewensis*, for a few shillings; but these books and many like them are really inexpensive, if regard is paid to the number of words they contain. The Oxford Dictionary itself is sold at an almost nominal price. Many of the books, however, which appeal to a narrow public are properly priced higher than if they could be sold in large numbers; for the price of a book depends mainly upon two things—the number of words it contains and the number of people who will buy it. The art of publishing lies in nothing so much as in estimating whether a book is more likely to sell, say, 750 copies at 15*s.* or 5,000 at 5*s.* The policy of the Press has always been elastic in this respect; and very many of its books are among the cheapest in their kind.

§ 4. *Illustrated Books*

THE publication by the Press of beautifully illustrated books is mainly a development of comparatively recent years, and it has been furthered by the progress of collotype printing at Oxford. The catalogue now includes a large number of sumptuous monographs on artistic subjects. In its facsimiles of manuscripts and rare printed books, published on its own account or for the British Museum, the Press has done much to make accessible to scholars the treasures of the great collections. Well-known examples are the magnificent collotype reproduction of the *Codex Sinaiticus* from negatives made at St. Petersburg (under the old régime) and at Leipzig of this most famous of all manuscripts, and the complete collotype reproduction of the Shakespearian corpus, consisting of the Folio of 1623, which went out of print on publication in 1912, and the *Poems and Pericles* from the first editions, still on sale.

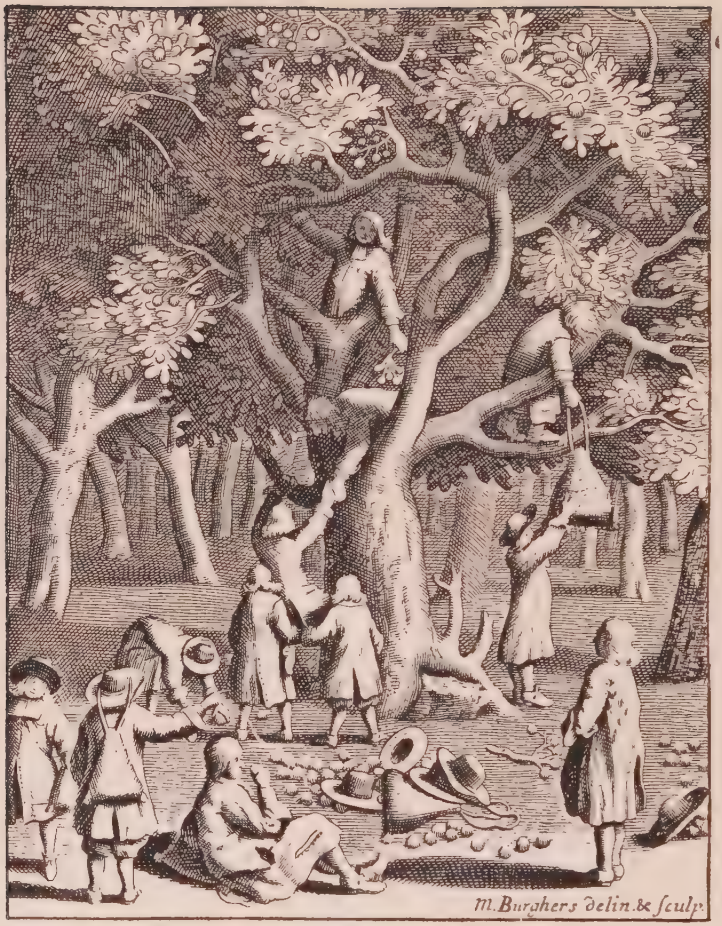
The Press has also published very numerous reproductions of works of art of all kinds, partly by way of illustrated catalogues of special collections or *genres* (such as the three folio volumes of Oxford Drawings by the old masters, the numerous coin catalogues, and the cheap collection of British Historical Portraits in half-tone); partly in the form of profusely illustrated monographs, which moreover are all scientific works by experts and not mere collections of pretty pictures with illustrative letterpress.

These works are of great importance to students and collectors, and a select list is appended: Head's *Historia Numorum*, Gardner's *Ancient Coinage*, Beazley's and other

Specimen of work done by M. Burghers, Engraver to the University about 1700

Clarendon Preß, Oxford.

Specimen of work done in the studio of the Clarendon Press to-day



Ecce Puer fructus, ad quos. ludi ipse Magister,
Et Pater invitant, & bene notus Amor.

Scepe ulta est raptos crudelis Betula malos,
Nunc ut devites verbera carpe Puer.

T.W.

From Lily's Latin Grammar, Oxford 1692

THE BUILDING OF THE WALL

One of the drawings by Henry Ford from A School History of England *by C. R. L. Fletcher and Rudyard Kipling*, 1911

books on Greek Vases, Hill's *Renaissance Medals*, Dalton's *Byzantine Art*, Maunde Thompson's *Palaeography*, Murray's *History of Chess*, ffoulkes's *Armour and Weapons*, Rivoira's *Moslem Architecture*, Vincent Smith's *Fine Art in India*, Sir Aurel Stein's *Khotan* and *Serindia* and other special works on Eastern Art, the important series of monographs on English Church Art written or edited by the late Francis Bond, with his comprehensive *Introduction to English Church Architecture* in two volumes, and many more too numerous to cite, particularly the great wealth of British Museum catalogues. A very welcome accession to the catalogue is supplied by the sumptuous monographs on Italian Masters produced by the Harvard and Princeton University Presses.

In recent years the Press has published a number of monographs of the highest value—notably Beazley's *Ancient Gems*, Miss Fairbridge's *Historic Houses of South Africa*, Strzygowski's *Christian Church Art*, Briggs's *Muhammadan Architecture*, Brown's *Indian Paintings*, Binyon's *Court Painters of the Grand Moguls*, Richmond's *Dome of the Rock*, Dalton's *East Christian Art*. These books are produced in a manner which bears the mark of the present Printer to the University.

The use of illustration is, however, by no means confined to facsimiles and works on the arts. The modern productions of the Press have made an increasing use of illustration both as an embellishment and as a medium of information. School-books in particular are now lavishly illustrated with portraits, maps, diagrams, and other reproductions, often either of modern photographs or of old cuts and engravings carefully chosen, so that the actual men and things of former times may be faithfully mirrored.

The Press prints for the British Museum and other

London collections, as well as for the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, very large numbers of postcards in collotype, by means of which a knowledge of our national art treasures is being widely spread.

No attempt is made—for obvious reasons—to give on these pages adequate examples of the illustrations printed at the Press from collotypes or from half-tone blocks; but some specimens are given of the more popular, or more strictly utilitarian, kinds of illustration. Specimens of fine illustration will be found in the quarto catalogue of *Oxford Books on the Fine Arts* issued in 1925.

Illustration, once the rare exception, may now be said to be the rule of Oxford publications. In schoolbooks, and in many books addressed to the general reader, lavish use is made of illustration, both to instruct and to amuse the students' journey. The pictures are not chosen from the most obvious sources, nor are they merely called in as an anodyne. Great pains are devoted to their selection as well as to their execution, and the principle of historical propriety is observed by the use, whenever possible, of contemporary prints, &c., to illustrate the life of past ages.

§ 5. *Fine Printing*

THE manner of the Oxford Press is traditional rather than individual; and it does not produce books of which the matter is less important than the form, or which are deliberately chosen as themes upon which typographical variations may be composed. But in recent years many books have been issued from Oxford to the typography of which special attention has been paid, and which are designed to appeal to collectors on the ground of their typography though not solely on that ground.

Of these the most important is the centenary *Book of Fell*, which though actually published in 1926 was designed, and for the most part printed, in the tercentenary of John Fell's birth in 1625. The intention was to do honour to Fell, who is remembered as one of the Founders of the Press, and to furnish students of printing with convenient examples of the famous types which bear his name. The book is a large folio, and consists mainly of reproductions in type-facsimile of pages of Oxford books printed (1) in Fell's own time and the century following, (2) in modern times. The types used are of course modern; but they are cast from the original matrices preserved at the Press since the seventeenth century. It is a matter for thankfulness that they survived the move, about a hundred years ago, from Broad Street to Walton Street. To each specimen is added a note identifying the types used with their prototypes in the Oxford *Specimens* of 1693. The paper is a pure rag made at

Wolvercote. The binding is Oxford blue cloth, with the arms of the University and of Bishop Fell. The edition is limited to 550 copies.

Among other recent limited editions in this kind may be mentioned *The Poems of Richard Lovelace*, the large-paper edition (limited in this form) in two volumes folio, with many illustrations; Horace Walpole's *Reminiscences*, reprinted from the manuscript in the manner of Strawberry Hill; and a new series of *Type-facsimile Reprints* of poetical pieces of the Restoration and the Eighteenth Century. These, while they have been welcomed by librarians and students to whom the originals are denied, have caused some alarm lest in the course of time they should—by inadvertence or otherwise—be confused with the real thing, and so add a fresh peril to collecting. It has been sought to reduce this danger by printing a dated description on the verso of each title-page.

§ 6. *English Classics*

THE late Sir Walter Raleigh was not a man of business, and though he became a Delegate of the Press a year or two before his death he took no part in its management. Yet he deserves to be recorded in this place for the influence which he exercised, during some twenty years, upon one of the most important of the activities of the Press. His successor, in his inaugural lecture, spoke of the need for organization of what are called post-graduate studies. 'We cannot much longer expect the Clarendon Press to train, and to train on proof-sheets, half the editors of England. It has been hitherto our only training school.'

Of this school Raleigh was much more than the titular head. He took an active part in the production, at the Press, of critical editions of English Classics. His talk and his letters were a continual refreshment to anxious editors and jaded publishers.

It is from the nature of the case a rare thing for a University Press to publish the first editions of a writer of original genius. We may the more congratulate ourselves on being the publishers of many of Raleigh's writings, and of some of his best writings. Of these the chief are his last book, the *History of the War in the Air*; the collection of literary essays called *Some Authors*; and the little book, which he himself thought more likely than any of his other writings to survive him, *England and the War*.

The history of Oxford editing of English classics in this century is closely associated with the history of Raleigh's English school. The relation has been reciprocal, the

activities of the Press being both cause and effect of those of the school. But much of the work produced by the Press has, of course, been extra-mural. The total of the editions produced is very large, and the field covered is the whole field of English literature. The *Oxford English Texts*, library editions finely printed and bound, now approaches thirty volumes (from Spenser to Coleridge); the *Oxford Poets* series is over forty volumes; the *Tudor and Stuart Library*, over twenty; the *Oxford Miscellany*, over fifty. There is also a large number of editions not in series; to which notable recent accessions are the first volumes of the Oxford Jonson by Professor Herford and Mr. Percy Simpson; a further supplement, by Dr. Paget Toynbee, of the monumental edition of Walpole's Letters by the late Mrs. Toynbee (now including nearly 800 letters not in Cunningham's edition); *A Tale of a Tub*, by A. C. Guthkelch and D. Nichol Smith; Jane Austen's Novels, by R. W. Chapman; Boswell's Letters, by C. B. Tinker; the Poems of Lovelace, by C. H. Wilkinson.

No other publisher has given more than a fraction of this attention to the scholarly editing of English texts. The output of reprints is indeed very large; but the most successful of these pay greater heed to embellishments of various kinds than to 'the dull duty of an editor'.

§ 7. *Official Publications*

THE Press prints for the official purposes of the University the *University Gazette* (recording the official Acts and Agenda of the University), the annual *Calendar* (primarily a list of the members of the University), the *Statuta Universitatis* and the *Examination Statutes* (both published every year), and a number of smaller pamphlets &c. giving special information. The numerous and far-reaching changes made necessary by the war and the fruits of the war have hitherto precluded the republication of the useful and popular *Oxford University Handbook*, last published in 1915. Meanwhile, the pamphlet of *General Information* (on admission, residence, scholarships, and some examinations) will be found valuable by those, at home and abroad, who wish to form a general conception of the opportunities afforded to students and the requirements which they must fulfil.

There are many other official books, both utilitarian and antiquarian. Employers and others have often occasion to inquire what places a member of the University obtained in the class-lists. The information, not always available elsewhere, is given, from the beginning to 1900, in the *Historical Register of the University*; for the years 1901–20, in the *Supplement* to that work published in 1921; for later years, in the current *Calendar*. Benefactors and others interested in University Finance are directed to the *Abstract of the Accounts of the University and Colleges* published

annually. Other publications of local usefulness include the *Oxford University Pocket Diary* for the academical year, and the terminal list of all *Resident Members of the University* (with addresses, telephone numbers, &c.).

The University twice during the war printed its *Roll of Service*, and in 1920 published the third and definitive edition: it contains the names, fourteen thousand five hundred and sixty-one in number, of those members of the University who served in the Military and Naval forces of the Crown. The names of those who gave their lives, two thousand four hundred and seventy-four in number, are distinguished by heavy type.

The Oxford University Almanack has been printed annually since 1674, and of the illustrations since 1716 the Press possesses the original plates. By far the greater number are still on sale. Many of the modern plates are of great interest and beauty; those for 1906–10, and that for 1918, are collotypes from drawings made for the Almanack by Mr. Muirhead Bone; some of the later issues are chromo-collotypes reproducing water-colour drawings, preserved at Oxford, by J. M. W. Turner and other artists of his time.

The historical books dealing with Oxford and published by the Press include Mr. Madan's *Oxford Books*, '1468'–1650, a work much esteemed by bibliographers [1] (a third volume, 1651–1675, is in the press); Mr. Shadwell's *Enactments in Parliament* (concerning Oxford, Cambridge, Winchester, Eton, and Westminster); Mrs. Poole's three volumes of illustrated catalogues of Oxford Portraits; and, in a lighter vein, Mr. Lamborn's popular *Story of Architecture in Oxford Stone*, and handy guides, written by experts, to the Bodleian,

[1] It has recently, in the catalogues of two eminent antiquarian booksellers, been described as scarce, and offered at about double the published price. *Caveat emptor.*

other Oxford Libraries, the Ashmolean Museum, the University Museum (of Natural Science), and the picturesque Degree Ceremony (by the Warden of Wadham). The Press offers also a *History of Oxford Rowing*, and the collected *Orationes* of a former Public Orator, Dr. W. W. Merry, perhaps the only man of modern times who could make a Latin speech intelligible to an audience of undergraduates and ladies.

Lord Curzon's work on *University Reform* published in 1909 is still on sale.

§ 8. *The Oxford English Dictionary*

THE work described on its title-page as *A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles*, and long known familiarly as *N.E.D.* or *Murray's Dictionary*, but now generally as the *Oxford Dictionary*, has a continuous history of more than half a century. It was in 1857 that Dean Trench (afterwards Archbishop Trench) laid the foundation of the work by calling the attention of the Philological Society to the inadequacy of all existing English Dictionaries. He pointed out that thousands of words which had become obsolete, but remained in the national literature, had either escaped the diligence of lexicographers or had been excluded by the limitations of their plan; and in especial that no dictionary gave any account of the *history* of words and their senses; in none was it ascertained when a word was first used, when (if obsolete) it had last been used, and how its senses had been developed.

The members of the Philological Society threw themselves eagerly into the plan proposed for supplying these deficiencies, and an army of volunteers set about the systematic examination of the whole body of English literature. At length a dictionary was projected (in place of the supplement first suggested, which it was realized would be much larger than the works it was designed to supplement), and Mr. Herbert Coleridge was appointed editor. Fresh volunteers were enlisted, and the work made progress. But it could hardly have taken shape without the tireless industry and indomitable courage of the next editor, Dr. Furnivall,

who saw, but did not shrink from, the immense preparatory labours yet to be faced. Furnivall realized that an English Dictionary could not be made until the roots of the language could be examined in the mass of our early literature, which was then hardly known; and to provide this essential he founded in 1864 the *Early English Text Society*—the long list of whose publications, still growing, may be read in the Clarendon Press Catalogue.

But even the enthusiasm of a Furnivall did not avail to prevent a growing sense of despondency, when the work seemed to lengthen out indefinitely with no promise of performance. No private publisher could be found to undertake a work so vast. It was decided to invite the co-operation of the Clarendon Press. The Philological Society and Dr. James Murray, who had thrown himself into the work with an energy equal to Furnivall's own, and was by acclamation designated as editor, entered into negotiations with the Delegates of the Press, and an agreement was signed.

It is fortunate that the magnitude of human undertakings is seldom perceived by those who engage upon them. Coleridge had intimated that it would be time to begin the Dictionary when a hundred thousand quotations had been pigeon-holed. The efforts of Furnivall and Murray brought the total to three and a half million quotations, selected by thirteen hundred readers from the works of five thousand authors. The work of accumulation has gone on for fifty years since, and to-day the Dictionary contains about one and three-quarter million *printed* quotations, selected from a far larger number. Dr. Murray himself agreed with the Delegates for a work of between 6,000 and 7,000 pages. The total will exceed 15,000. He expected to complete the book in ten years with a small staff. To-day, forty-four years after printing began, the

GATEWAY OF THE OLD ASHMOLEAN

work, to which Murray himself contributed more than 7,000 pages, is being carried on by two editors with nine assistants; the end is not yet, but it is in sight.

It is impossible to value too highly the services of voluntary helpers from the beginning to the present day. The completeness and accuracy of the work, which is probably without a rival in any country or in any age, could not have been secured except by editors of the greatest learning and ability and by the training of a lifetime; but these qualities would not have availed if the work had not been founded upon inductive investigations of a range never before attempted. For the wealth of the materials made available our gratitude is due to readers not only in the United Kingdom but in all parts of the world, and notably in the United States of America, where the Dictionary is regarded with affectionate admiration as the common achievement of the English-speaking people.

Valuable, however, as the work of these voluntary helpers has been, an even larger debt of gratitude is due to the faithful labours of the editorial staff of assistants, some of whom can trace back their term of service to the earliest years of the undertaking. To their acumen, vigilance, and zeal have been and are due in large measure the completeness of the evidence and the correctness of detail in the presentation of words and their meanings.

Dr. Murray with his staff moved to Oxford in 1885, and there the work has been continuously carried on, partly in the *Scriptorium* attached to Dr. Murray's house, partly (and in recent years wholly) in the *Old Ashmolean Building*, next door to the old Sheldonian Press and within a stone's throw of the Bodleian. Here, as a section of the alphabet comes to be treated, the material is sifted, extracts from it are put

in order, fresh investigations, often laborious, are undertaken to settle etymologies and doubtful points in the history of a word; copy is prepared for the printer, and references are checked. The complete preparation of the material involves researches of the most varied nature, some of which lead the editors even beyond the confines of our own language to novel and important discoveries.

The scope of the Dictionary, in the form which it finally assumed, is thus stated in the preface to Volume I:—'The aim of this dictionary is to furnish an adequate account of the meaning, origin, and history of English words now in general use, or known to have been in use at any time during the last seven hundred years. It endeavours (1) to show, with regard to each individual word, when, how, in what shape, and with what signification, it became English; what development of form and meaning it has since received; which of its uses have, in the course of time, become obsolete, and which still survive; what new uses have since arisen, by what processes, and when: (2) to illustrate these facts by a series of quotations ranging from the first known occurrence of the word to the latest, or down to the present day; the word being thus made to exhibit its own history and meaning: and (3) to treat the etymology of each word strictly on the basis of historical fact, and in accordance with the methods and results of modern philological science.'

As the history of many English words begins with the Anglo-Saxon period, and the 'first known occurrence' may be as early as the seventh century, the period actually covered by hundreds of the articles in the Dictionary is one of ten, eleven, or twelve centuries.

The extent to which the aim of the Dictionary has been accomplished is not yet so widely known as it ought to be. Many discussions as to the origin, history, and meaning of

words are carried on in newspapers and periodicals which could be decided at once by a reference to the Dictionary. Inquirers spend much of their own and others' time, and in the end write to one of the editors, in quest of information which has for years been available in the published volumes. Nor is it solely the student of language who can profit by the use of the Dictionary, although in this respect it is of unique value both for English and Continental philologists. Every scholar and scientist is likely to find in it some fresh light upon his own subject, for many special points in the history and terminology of the various sciences have for the first time been elucidated in its pages.

The reputation, however, of the Dictionary is now so widely spread that it would be superfluous to call witnesses to its unique qualities and its profound usefulness. In the legislature and in the law courts, as well as in the library and the market-place, its ruling on the meanings and use of words is accepted as final. Nor is the range of the work limited in this respect to the usage of the United Kingdom; it embraces all forms of the language sanctioned as standard by literary use, wherever English is spoken and written.

For these and other reasons no proper comparison can be made with any other English dictionary; but the magnitude of the result may none the less be gauged by means of these. Taking one of the ten volumes as a basis of comparison, the seventh, comprising words beginning with O and P, has nearly 49,000 words (of which over 5,000 are obsolete and nearly 2,000 are naturalized aliens). No other English dictionary has more than 27,000 words beginning with O and P. When comparison is made of the number of illustrative quotations, the difference is overwhelming; Vol. VII has 175,000 quotations, and no other dictionary

has much more than 20,000 for the same sections of the alphabet.

If it is thought that, great as the work is, it has taken an inordinate time to produce, comfort may be taken from the fate of comparable enterprises abroad. The great *Deutsches Wörterbuch* started by the brothers Grimm in 1838 began to be printed as long ago as 1851, and thus had a start of over thirty years; but though it is only some two-thirds of the scale of the Oxford book, there still, after seventy-five years, remains about a sixth to do. The Dutch *Woordenboek* is less advanced, and the dictionary of the Swedish Academy has not passed the letter F.

The state of the work to-day is that of the ten volumes nine are published, and of the tenth (Ti–Z) substantial parts are complete, namely Ti–Ty, U, V, X Y Z, and sections of W. In W sections have been published covering Wa, We, Wh, and some of Wi. Wo and Wr remain. W is in many respects the most difficult letter in the alphabet, consisting as it does almost entirely of words of Teutonic origin, and therefore of obscure etymology and complicated history. A lexicographer makes light work of *parallelepiped* and *supralapsarian*; it is when he comes to words like *word* and *work*, *war* and *waste*, *will* and *with*, that his powers of discovery and of discrimination are seriously taxed.

Sir James Murray (he was knighted in 1908) died 26 July 1915. His ambition to see the completion of the work on his eightieth birthday in 1917 was not fulfilled, and even if he had lived to devote to it his amazing powers of application, could not have been fulfilled. He lived, however, to see the end of his life-work in sight, and more than that of any other man his name will be associated with the long

and efficient working of the great engine of research. The volumes produced by him have characteristic excellences which cannot be exactly matched, though they may be rivalled by merits of another kind.

The work has been carried on by editors working independently on different sections of the alphabet. Dr. Henry Bradley, whose period of work on the Dictionary rivalled Murray's in point of time, was at his death by common consent the greatest of living English philologists. He was an editor from 1888 to 1923. Professor W. A. Craigie, who has been an editor since 1901 (and Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon from 1916 to 1925), brought to the work of the Dictionary a rare combination of qualifications. He is especially eminent as a Scandinavian scholar. Though Dr. Craigie has recently left Oxford for the United States of America, where large lexicographical enterprises are being promoted under his direction and with his aid, his connexion with Oxford has not terminated. He has had an important share in some of the latest additions to the concluding volume, and in the last few months has made astonishing progress with one of the remaining sections. Mr. C. T. Onions, appointed an editor in 1913, has been on the staff since 1895. He is also known to scholars as the author of the *Oxford Shakespeare Glossary* and for his editorial part in *Shakespeare's England.*

The London Goldsmiths' Company contributed £5,000 towards the cost of the sixth volume of the Dictionary, the title-page of which records their generous support. Apart from this the whole of the editorial and manufacturing cost of the work has been borne by the Delegates of the Press, who have defrayed from their general revenues a heavy annual outlay for many years. This has necessarily risen

since the war, and it is fortunate that so large a part of the work had been completed under conditions less onerous than now obtain.

The price of the Dictionary has been kept very low, the sections being published at the rate of *2s. 6d.* for sixty-four pages or less than a halfpenny per page containing on an average over 300 lines of type and nearly 3,000 words. Few books have ever been sold at so low a rate. The prices of volumes and half volumes stoutly bound in leather have necessarily been advanced in recent years to meet the enhanced cost of manufacturing; but the price of the Dictionary is still no more than nominal, if regard is paid to the outlay precedent to the actual manufacture of the books. Sections in paper wrappers, issued after 1920, are priced at the rate of *5s.* for sixty-four pages; but it is not proposed to raise the price of the bulk of the work in this form.

The London *Times* in 1897 described the Dictionary as 'the greatest effort which any University, it may be any printing press, has taken in hand since the invention of printing. . . . It will be not the least of the glories of the University of Oxford to have completed this gigantic task'.

Lord Curzon in his *Letter to the University* of 1909 wrote: 'In the staff of the English Dictionary alone the Press contributes to the University what is probably the largest single engine of Research working anywhere at the present time.'

§ 9. *Dictionary of National Biography*

THIS, the largest of all national collections of biography, owes its existence to the enterprise and munificence of the late GEORGE SMITH, who founded it in 1882. The work was produced by the co-operation of a large number of scholars acting under the direction of the late Sir LESLIE STEPHEN, with whom was afterwards associated Mr. Sidney Lee; and the latter half of the work was produced under Sir SIDNEY LEE's sole editorship.

It was produced in sixty-three quarterly volumes, 1885–1900, the arrangement being alphabetical; and the lives of those who died too late to be admitted in their alphabetical place were included by the issue of three supplementary volumes, which brought the work down to the death of Queen Victoria and just past the close of the nineteenth century. The sixty-six volumes were later reissued, with corrections, on thinner paper, three volumes being converted into one; and this edition in twenty-two volumes constitutes the main dictionary from the earliest times to the close of the Victorian era, in the form now on sale. It contains, in rather more than 30,000 pages, some 30,000 lives, each equipped with a select bibliography. The roll of contributors includes many famous names; conspicuous among the articles are those of Sir Leslie Stephen himself, which are models of form and substance, and those of the late Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, Sir Charles Firth, whose Life of Cromwell is an acknowledged classic.

Continuing the work of the founder, Mrs. George Smith undertook a Supplement covering the years 1901–1911, which was produced by Sir Sidney Lee in 1912–13. This, as the first of a series of twentieth-century volumes, inaugurated what should properly be regarded as a second and distinct work.

Further, in 1903 was published in one volume an *Index and Epitome* to the Dictionary, giving within 1,500 pages 30,000 succinct biographies. The value of this compendium, to the very large non-professional public to whom the main work in twenty-two bulky volumes is not readily accessible, should be obvious enough. It has been thought proper, however, to lay stress upon its usefulness as an independent work of reference, which may fairly be expected to take its place, upon thousands of shelves, along with other compendious dictionaries and encyclopaedias; the Index and Epitome, therefore, along with the Index and Epitome to the Supplement of 1901–11, bound with it, is now issued under the short title of *Concise Dictionary of National Biography*. Its price has recently been reduced to the very low figure of 21*s.* (the pre-war price was 28*s.*) and the book has been widely advertised and sold.

The Dictionary of National Biography, with the responsibility for its maintenance, was offered to the University of Oxford in 1917 and gratefully accepted. Work on a further decennial supplement, covering the years 1912–21, is now far advanced, and it is hoped to publish it in 1927. This supplement is edited by the Regius Professor of Modern History, Professor H. W. Carless Davis, and Mr. J. R. H. Weaver of Trinity, who have enlisted the help of a large body of experts in various fields, both as contributors and as advisers upon the difficult problem of admission and of the scale to be allotted to the several Lives.

Since the *D. N. B.* passed to the University, the entire work—that is the main work in 30,000 pages, the 1901–11 Supplement, and the *Concise Dictionary*—has been reprinted from plates, at a cost approaching £10,000. The sale of the main work bears no relation to its admitted usefulness, and there must be many libraries to which it ought to be added. Whether it will in the future be found practicable to attempt a systematic revision of it, must still remain in doubt. The manufacturing expense of a new edition would be very heavy, and must of necessity stand in the way of other unremunerative publications. It is clear, therefore, that this expenditure could be justified only by searching investigations, leading to a very substantial gain in accuracy, which must occupy years and involve a further heavy expenditure. The total outlay required has been estimated at £100,000, and this perhaps could not be defrayed without the munificence of a second founder. It may, however, be hoped that such a work will not at last languish for lack of funds. Meanwhile, under the direction of Professor Davis, the Delegates' adviser upon the Dictionary, preliminary work is being steadily carried on. Subject-indexes have been prepared; a bibliography is in hand of the biographical literature which has accumulated since the publication of the Dictionary; and various special investigations are being made into periods for which the work is especially in need of revision. The collection and classification of errata (proved or probable) and of notices of books and articles dealing with Worthies (old or new) goes on daily at the Press, and contributions are gratefully received. To this end *The Times* and certain periodicals are systematically gutted. When it is remembered that a whole army of scholars was continually at work upon the material of the *New English Dictionary* for more

than a quarter of a century before the first page was sent to press, it will be seen that the material of the *Dictionary of National Biography* may have to be newly surveyed with something of the same elaboration, if that Dictionary is ever to be rebuilt from its foundations.

Sir Sidney Lee died on 3 March 1926. With characteristic generosity he showed his affection to his old University by bequeathing to the Board of English Studies the profits from his *Life of Shakespeare*, which he desired should be applied to the furtherance of Shakespearian studies. His great service to the Dictionary will be commemorated in a special notice prefixed to the forthcoming volume (1912–1921). His life as a whole will not, of course, appear in the *D.N.B.* until the publication (in 1935?) of the volume covering the years 1922–1930.

§ 10. *The Oxford Medical Publications*

IN the year 1907 a Joint Committee was formed between the Oxford University Press and Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, under the Directorship of Mr. Humphrey Sumner Milford and Sir Ernest Hodder Williams, which had for its object the production of Medical, Surgical, and Scientific books, under the general title of the 'Oxford Medical Publications'.

The Committee were peculiarly fortunate in having the invaluable advice and assistance, in the choice of Authors and Subjects, of the late Sir William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine in the University of Oxford, and a Delegate of the Press.

The key-note of the Oxford Medical Publications has always been the practical character of the treatment. The popular Medical Manuals, Monographs, and the 'General Practitioner Series' have now a world-wide reputation, and include a large number of standard works, such as *Diseases of the Heart*, and *Principles of Diagnosis and Treatment in Heart Affections* by Sir James Mackenzie, *A System of Operative Surgery* by F. F. Burghard, C.B., *Common Disorders and Diseases of Childhood* by G. F. Still, *Practical Obstetrics* by Professor E. Hastings Tweedy, *Guide to Gynaecology in General Practice* by Comyns Berkeley and Victor Bonney, *The Practitioner's Encyclopaedia of Medical Treatment*, *The Practitioner's Encyclopaedia of Medicine and Surgery*.

By the acquisition in 1908 of Mr. Young J. Pentland's business, leading Text-books by the most eminent Scottish authors were incorporated, including such well-known books as Cunningham's *Text-book of Anatomy* and *Manual of Practical Anatomy*, Muir and Ritchie's *Manual of Bacteriology*, Thomson and Miles's *Manual of Surgery*, Waring's *Manual of Operative Surgery*, Thomson's *Outlines of Zoology*.

The Oxford Medical Publications were awarded the Grand Prix at the seventeenth International Congress of Medicine held in London in 1913. This award was bestowed for the general excellence of the Students' books produced in the Series, and for the production of new and original work therein.

In 1916 the Committee sustained a great loss in the death of their Editor, James Keogh Murphy. A further heavy loss was sustained at the end of 1919 by the death of Sir William Osler, whose advice and assistance had always been of inestimable value. After the death of Mr. Murphy, the Editorship was temporarily undertaken by Lieut.-Colonel Sir D'Arcy Power, who was responsible for several important additions to the Series, including the well-known *Oxford War Primers of Medicine and Surgery*. Towards the close of hostilities Captain Robert McNair Wilson, M.B., Ch.B., late Assistant to Sir James Mackenzie under the Medical Research Committee, became Editor, and under his direction further important additions were made, including *Menders of the Maimed* by Professor Arthur Keith, *Studies in Neurology* by Henry Head, *Operative Treatment of Chronic Intestinal Stasis* by Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, *Plastic Surgery of the Face* by Major H. D. Gillies, C.B.E., R.A.M.C., *War Neuroses and Shell Shock* by Sir Frederick Mott, K.B.E., *Clinical Ophthalmology for the General Practitioner* by A. Maitland Ramsay, and *Tropical Ophthalmology* by Lieut.-Colonel R. H.

Elliot, I.M.S. The present Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, Sir Archibald Garrod, is a Delegate of the Press and an Oxford author.

Since November 1920 Dr. James H. W. Laing, M.A., B.Sc., St. Andrews, M.B., C.M. Ed., has acted as Editor of the Oxford Medical Publications. In April 1923 Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton's interest in the Oxford Medical Publications was transferred to Mr. Milford, and since that date the Oxford University Press have acted as sole publishers of the Series.

The Oxford Catalogue now devotes many pages to the medical list, and the American Branch, by the publication of the encyclopaedic 'loose-leaf' *Oxford Surgery*, has produced an important and valuable adaptation of a British original. In the *Quarterly Journal of Medicine* the University possesses one of the most valuable scientific journals in the world; and in the other medical publications it administers what is at once a valuable property and a powerful instrument of education. Oxford medical books are known wherever English is spoken.

The series of Oxford Technical Publications was initiated in 1919. The general intention at the outset was to furnish books of reference on engineering and chemical subjects. Under this heading were published standard works on a variety of subjects, notably *Power Alcohol* by G. W. Monier-Williams; *Engineering Non-Ferrous Metals and Alloys* by Leslie Aitchison and W. R. Barclay; *Varnishes and their Components* by R. S. Morrell; and *Modern Electroplating* by W. E. Hughes. Among the smaller books an outstanding success was *Reinforced Concrete Simply Explained* by Oscar Faber.

The newly formed Institute of Physics began in 1922 a series of lectures on *Physics in Industry*, the first volume of which was published in 1923: subsequent volumes, including

a paper by Sir Oliver Lodge on *Electrical Precipitation*, have since been published by the Press and the series seems likely to continue. This branch of science is very important to industry, though it is hardly more than a name to too many men of business.

In 1922 the Committee acquired the two well-known engineering annuals, *The Practical Engineer Mechanical* and *Electrical Pocket Books*. These books are now (1926) in their 38th and 27th years respectively and circulate throughout the world, from South America to Japan.

Two general editors were appointed in 1923: Mr. J. W. Bispham, Principal of the Borough Polytechnic Institute, and Mr. A. R. Sage, Principal of the L.C.C. School of Building: under their guidance the Press has embarked on the provision of text-books and elementary books for technical schools and colleges, and has made an excellent start with *A Textbook of Pharmaceutical Chemistry* by A. O. Bentley and J. Driver. Other technical school-books are on the way.

§ 11. *Oxford Books for Boys and Girls*

THE more recent activities of the Press include a notable enterprise, started by Mr. Henry Frowde jointly with Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, but now carried on by Mr. Milford alone. This was the foundation in 1907 of a new department for the issue of educational works for elementary schools, and of 'gift-books', useful and recreative literature, for young people of all ages. The Oxford Reading Books, which headed the list, set a new literary standard for books of the class; and the series established itself not only in this country but in parts of the Empire so remote and so diverse as Australia and Burma. It was followed by further series of reading books, and of books on history, geography, arithmetic, nature study, and other subjects of the elementary curriculum. The part taken by the Press in the educational system of the English-speaking world may now be said to comprehend the whole scholastic field from the infant school upwards.

Concurrently with the school publications, the J. Department, as it is known for convenience, has issued from Falcon Square a great variety of books for the leisure hours of boys and girls. These include finely illustrated editions of classics, such as *Robinson Crusoe*, Grimm's *Tales*, Kingsley's *Water Babies*, *Alice in Wonderland*; books on nature, science, industry, imperial history; miscellanies both instructive and entertaining; stories for boys, girls, and young children; and for the very youngest, picture books of all kinds.

All these publications are edited with care, and both on the literary and on the artistic side a high level of excellence is aimed at. Some three million copies of the books are distributed during the year.

§ 12. *Music*

THE latest development of the Press is its Music Department. The Press has now taken an appropriate rank among the music publishers of England, and has even acquired some reputation abroad. But it is only a young branch, for it started to shoot no earlier than June 1923, with a series of school songs and church music for schools, and in the real 'sheet-music' trade, at the time of writing, the department is just seventeen months old.

From the outset a high standard of musical achievement, one which has to some perhaps seemed uncommercial, has been demanded in works offered for admission to the Oxford catalogue. This policy has not only caused some surprise in the musical world, but has also attracted to the Press the co-operation of the more serious musicians, who at this period of revived musical energy in England are numerous and influential.

The Press was, of course, already known in musical circles by its books on music and its association with the Tudor Church Music published by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. The *Oxford History of Music* will long remain the standard book of reference on the musical past. Dr. Ernest Walker's *History of Music in England* (now in a second edition) was accepted as a high authority. Mr. H. C. Colles's *Growth of Music* and the text-books of Harmony and Counterpoint by Professor Kitson stand, it is not too much to say, alone, while Dr. Buck's books on Acoustics and Unfigured Harmony, and his *Oxford Song Book*, hold their firm places

among music teachers all over the country. In Hymn Books —particularly the *English Hymnal*, delight of all real music lovers—the Press has always had its position, and it has enhanced it by acting as publishers for the Church Music Society.

Towards the end of the war an important new step was taken in the publication of *The Listener's Guide to Music* by Mr. Percy A. Scholes, which made an immediate and revolutionary success in the world of those who only listen—indeed, succeeded in raising them from a mere audience into a real part of music's life. Mr. Scholes has followed this up with a series of books which have been found invaluable both in England and America—the *Books of the Great Musicians* for young readers, the 'Gramophone', 'Pianola', and 'Broadcasting' books for the many whose only musical resource is mechanical reproduction, the *Beginner's Guide to Harmony* for the more technical inquirer, and the *Listener's History* for those who wish to study in a simple way the growth of musical style.

All this may be counted as past history, the basis from which the present rapid development of the Oxford Edition of music began. A few figures will show how speedy that growth has been.

The Oxford Choral Songs Series was founded in June 1923, with the aim of providing school songs of irreproachable quality in both words and music, with a special section devoted to songs from the Old Masters. At the same time the Unison Series of Services called Oxford Church Music was founded. There are now 108 Choral Songs, 47 Songs from the Old Masters, and 20 numbers of Oxford Church Music.

The first sheet music to be published was the Oxford Solo Songs Series, issued on 25 September 1924. There are

now ninety-four numbers in the series. Other categories of importance are Chamber Music, Choral Waltz, Bach's Cantatas, Dr. Whittaker's Small Orchestral Series, the Piano Series, and the Anthems Series.

The catalogue of the Music Department contains at the time of writing no less than 358 separate titles, and these are further subdivided by sol-fa editions, choruses only, separate numbers from larger works, and separate orchestral parts. This does not include books on music.

It will be seen that while the Press has, in its other branches, paid an especial attention to the proper editing and production of older and accepted music, yet it has pursued a policy of fostering modern music which has been a surprise for many. From the start too it has recognized that music is the most international of the arts, and has tried to reverse the old custom which sent English composers to foreign publishers. Thus the Press has published work by Willem Pizper, the leading young composer of Holland, of Bernard Van Dieren, Charles Koechlin, and Karel Mengelberg, and at the same time has given to Germany Mr. Edward J. Dent's edition of Dido and Aeneas, with a German text.

The chief problem of the Music Department has been the difference in the methods of distribution of music from those of the book trade. It was found necessary to establish a West-end business and distributing house. This need was met by the acquisition, on 14 April last, of the Anglo French Music Company, Ltd., of 95 Wimpole Street, a firm started during the war to combat the German type of piano music then so widely in vogue. In Wimpole Street the Press has now a complete selling organization for music, with a shop, a special music traveller, and a collecting system—besides having acquired by this means a valuable and important

catalogue of teaching piano music and chamber music esteemed throughout the country. The Press has appointed Messrs. Paterson's Publications, Ltd., sole music agents for Scotland and Ireland, Messrs. Schuberth & Co., sole agents for Germany, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Finland, and Messrs. Broekmans & von Poppel agents for Holland. Arrangements are in process for linking up the whole of Europe by similar agencies. In return the Press holds the sole agency in England and Wales for Messrs. Paterson's Publications, Ltd., for the United Kingdom and Dominions for the *Schola Cantorum*, and sole agency in Great Britain and the Colonies for the Cotta Edition, and the edition of J. Schuberth & Co. The Cotta agency is a most important one, having in fact brought back to England and the Colonies what was the most important edition of classical piano music issued in Europe.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

The Clarendon Press, Walton Street, Oxford . . . . *Frontispiece*

Device used on the back of the Title of *Sphæra Civitatis*, Oxford 1588 *Page* 10

Four Founders of the Oxford University Press: Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester; Archbishop Laud; Dr. John Fell; Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon . . . . . *Facing* 10

The Old Congregation House (interior), Domus Typographica. The first printing-house owned by the University, used not for the process of printing, but for storing Oriental type and printing-furniture, and assigned to this object by Convocation on June 3, 1652. Until the opening of the Sheldonian Theatre in 1669 the actual printing was done in the private houses of the University Printers . . *Facing* 11

Upper Part of the first page of the *Oxford* (now *London*) *Gazette*, 1665. The oldest newspaper or periodical still existing in England . *Page* 11

Oxford University Arms. Some ancient examples used by the Oxford University Press between 1517 and 1786 . . . . *Pages* 12, 13

Illustration from *The History of Lapland* by John Shefferus, 1674, the first anthropological book published by the Press . . . *Page* 14

'The Prospect of Aleppo.' From W. Maundrell's *Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem*, Oxford 1703, engraved by M. Burghers . . *Page* 15

Title-page of Anthony Wood's *Historia et Antiquitates Universitatis Oxoniensis*, published in 1674 . . . . . *Page* 17

The Three University Presses: The Sheldonian Theatre; The Clarendon Building; The Press of to-day . . . . . *Page* 19

The Quadrangle of the University Press at Oxford . . . *Facing* 20

Fire-place in the Delegates' Room, Clarendon Building; Grinling Gibbons Fire-place in one of the London Offices . . . . *Facing* 21

Specimens of Fell Types (see p. 15) . . . . . *Page* 24

Specimens of old Music Types and of present-day Roman and Italic Founts . . . . . *Page* 25

Specimens of Greek, Hebrew, Russian, Slavonic, Oriental, and Hieroglyphic Types . . . . . *Pages* 26, 27

Ancient Oak Frames in one of the Composing Rooms; The Upper Composing Room; The Old Machine Room; A Perfecting Machine with Self-feeder . . . . . *Between* 28 *and* 29

Jordan Hill: Bowling Green and Tennis Courts . . . *Facing* 30
Jordan Hill: Interior of Warehouse . . . . . „ 31
The Nagel Building: the New Bindery and the Crypt (before occupation) . . . . . „ 32
The Oxford Bindery . . . . . „ 33
Wolvercote Paper Mill; Rag-sorting; Rag-cutting; Rag-boiling; Rag-breaking; Beater Room; Machine Room; Paper-sorting; Paper Stock Warehouse . . . . . *Between* 38 *and* 39
Amen Corner, London (1883–1924) . . . . . *Facing* 40
Offices and Warehouse in London . . . . . „ 41
Warwick Square . . . . . „ 42
„ . . . . . „ 43
The Publisher's Room . . . . . „ 44
The Library . . . . . „ 45
Examples of Oxford Imprints, fifteenth to eighteenth centuries . *Pages* 54, 55
Title-page of the First Oxford Bible, 1675 . . . . . *Page* 66
Title-page of the Altar Service used at the Coronation of King George V, 1911 . . . . . *Page* 67
Title-page of David Wilkins's Coptic New Testament, published in 1716 „ 70
The Toronto Branch . . . . . *Facing* 77
The Melbourne Branch . . . . . „ 78
The South African Branch . . . . . „ 79
The New York Branch . . . . . „ 80
Show Rooms at the New York Branch . . . . . „ 81
Title-page of *Shakespeare's England*, published in 1916 . . *Page* 89
Specimen of Work done by M. Burghers, Engraver to the University about 1700 . . . . . „ 98
Specimen of Work done in the Studio of the Clarendon Press to-day „ 99
Illustration from Lily's *Latin Grammar*, Oxford 1692 . . . . . „ 100
One of the drawings by Henry Ford for *A School History of England* by C. R. L. Fletcher and Rudyard Kipling, 1911 . . . „ 101
Gateway of the Old Ashmolean. The Editorial Staff of the Oxford English Dictionary now carries on its work on the lower floor of this building *Facing* 112

The Headpieces and Initials on pp. 9, 23, 65, 73, and 83 are taken from Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion* (1702), the Bodleian Catalogue of 1738, and other early books printed at the Oxford Press.

The Fell Ornaments on pp. 35, 38, 40, 46, &c., are those used in Sir Thomas Hanmer's edition of Shakespeare, published in 1744.

The illustration on p. 134 is from Thomas Hearne's edition of Roper's Life of Sir Thomas More published at Oxford in 1716.

Vad. Boum vet.
1. Osneia Septentrionalis, sive Locus Regalis, vulgo Rewly.
2. Castrum.
3. Osneia Australis.
1
2
3
Veneunt apud Editorem.
A.D. MDCCXVI

MB.f.

W9-CAD-227